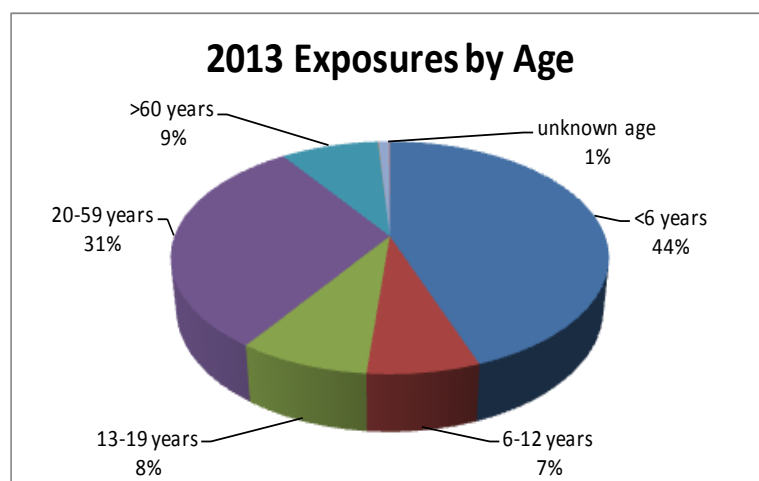


In 2008, poisoning became the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S.¹ The Maryland Poison Center (MPC), a service of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, has provided poisoning treatment advice, education, and prevention services to Marylander since 1972. In 2013, the MPC answered over 56,000 calls; more than 33,000 of which were related to people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (“exposures”).



WHO?

Who calls the poison center?

Poison centers take calls from and manage cases about people of all ages. Just under half of exposure cases managed by the MPC involved children younger than six, but the more serious cases occurred in adolescents, adults, and seniors.

When someone calls the poison center, who answers the phone? Poison center cases are managed by experts—nurses and pharmacists who have extensive medical training in poison prevention and treatment.

WHAT?

About what kinds of things do people call the poison center? In 2013, about 73% of exposure calls to the MPC involved medicines. Some 50% of exposure calls were about household or automotive products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, animal bites and stings, and many other things. Patients may be exposed to more than one substance in a poisoning or overdose case.

Top 5 Human Exposure Substance Categories By Age Group, 2013

All human exposures*		Young children (<6 yrs)		Older children (6-19 yrs)		Adults (>19 yrs)	
<i>(n=33,190)</i>		<i>(n=14,744)</i>		<i>(n=5,028)</i>		<i>(n=13,070)</i>	
Analgesics	16%	Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	15%	Analgesics	20%	Analgesics	22%
Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	10%	Household Cleaning Substances	11%	Stimulants and Street Drugs	8%	Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	20%
Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	9%	Analgesics	10%	Antihistamines	7%	Cardiovascular medicines	10%
Household Cleaning Substances	8%	Foreign Bodies, Toys, and Miscellaneous	8%	Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	7%	Alcohols	9%
Cardiovascular medicines	5%	Topical Preparations	6%	Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	7%	Household Cleaning Substances	7%

¹ http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/factsheets/factsheet_drug_poisoning.htm

WHEN?

When do people call the poison center? Experts answer calls to the poison center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. In 2013, the MPC managed between 150-200 calls per day! Call volume tends to be higher in the evening. Call volume also tends to increase in the summer months.



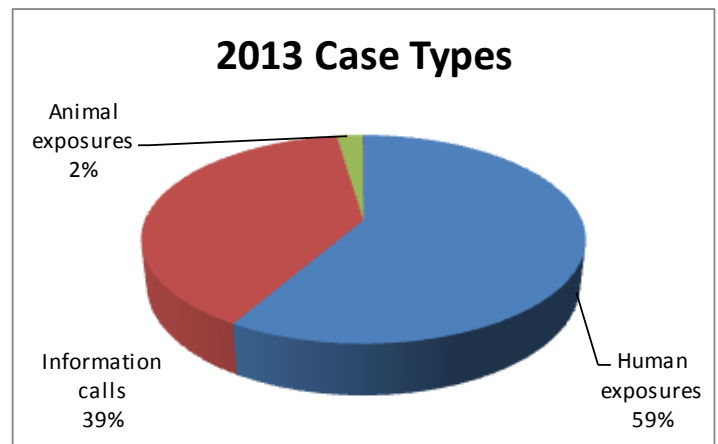
WHERE?

Where do the most poison exposures occur? The majority of human exposures occurred at a residence, but they can also occur in the workplace, schools, healthcare facilities, and others. Most cases were managed safely at the caller's home, saving millions in unnecessary medical expenses. In fact, poison centers nationwide save Americans more than \$1.8 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity!²

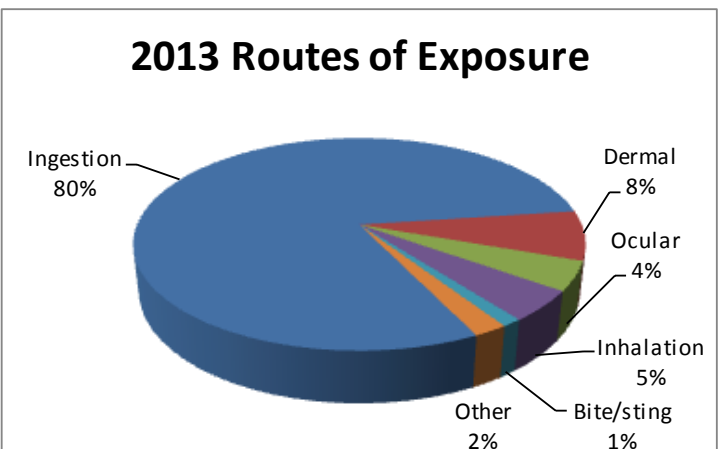
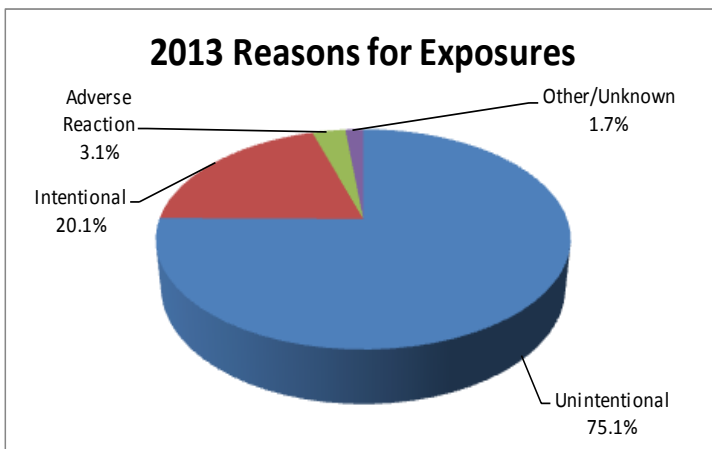
WHY?

Why do people call the poison center? People call the poison center when they think they may have been exposed to something poisonous. People also call the poison center for information about medicines, pesticide use, workplace chemicals, bites and stings, and many more topics.

As in previous years, in 2013, most poison exposures were unintentional (75%). The MPC also received calls about other types of poisonings: medication side effects, substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts.



In 2013, about 85% of poison exposures involved people who swallowed a drug or potential poison. However, people were also exposed through the lungs, skin, eyes, and in other ways.



For more information, visit www.mdpoison.com

² https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/releases/Lewin_Report_News_Release.pdf