

2020 Annual Report



Children's
of Alabama®



ALABAMA
POISON
INFORMATION
CENTER

800-222-1222

About the APIC

In March 2020 the Regional Poison Control Center became the Alabama Poison Information Center (APIC). The APIC has been a long-term commitment of Children's of Alabama to the citizenry of Alabama since 1958. The APIC was the 14th center established in the United States, during a time period when serious morbidity and mortality were attributed to poison ingestion in children and adults. Since its inception, the center engaged in providing the most accurate and rapid poison information to physicians only in the early years and then to both the professional and general public. The APIC provides free and confidential lifesaving information 24/7/365. The specialists in poison information (SPIs) who answer the APIC hotline are nurses and pharmacists trained in toxicology and are nationally certified. The APIC is a fully accredited poison center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers and serves the entire state of Alabama as the only accredited statewide center as designated by the Alabama Department of Public Health.



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POISON
He pTM
1-800-222-1222

A red pill bottle with a white cap and a white skull and crossbones symbol on the front.

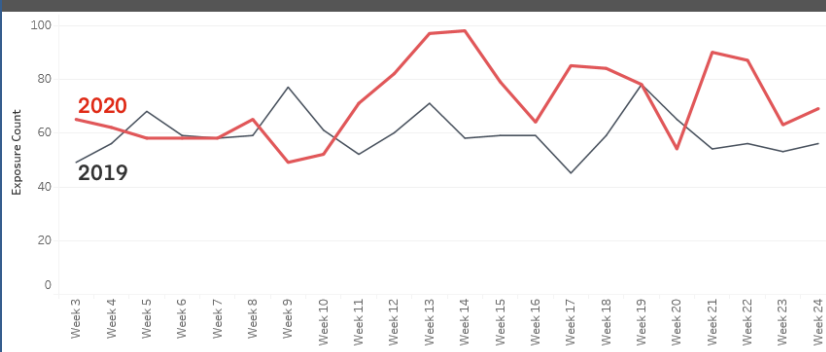
In 2020 the APIC handled **>105,000** calls.

- **>48,000** incoming calls resulting in **39,055** cases
 - **34,374** human exposures (multiple calls per case)
 - **3,025** information calls
 - **1,656** animal exposures
- **56,513** follow-up calls

The APIC monitors **>85%** of poison exposure calls from home on-site. In children <6 years old, **>92%** are monitored at home rather than being referred to a healthcare facility.

The APIC is available to patients of all ages. In 2020, we handled calls on patients that ranged from **3 days** to **101 years** old!

Weekly Cleaning Substance Exposures



At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the APIC saw a **26%** increase in cleaning product exposure cases in all ages from March to May 2020 compared to the same time frame in 2019.

“She was very helpful she even called me back twice to make sure we were ok. Thank you so very much!”

“I would like to leave kudos and thanks to the pharmacist that helped me tonight with my granddaughter. My granddaughter is fine so I really appreciate everything. Thanks again!”

“The nurse was so knowledgeable and kind. She was great in every way. I was very grateful for her excellent and professional help. She was understanding and very professional. I was so lucky to have her help and I wish to thank her very much!”

“The nurse I spoke to was absolutely fantastic. Very reassuring and thoughtful on her delivery of information.”

“The nurse was so kind, knowledgeable and helpful. She is a wonderful representative for this service. I felt like she really cared and was very competent.”

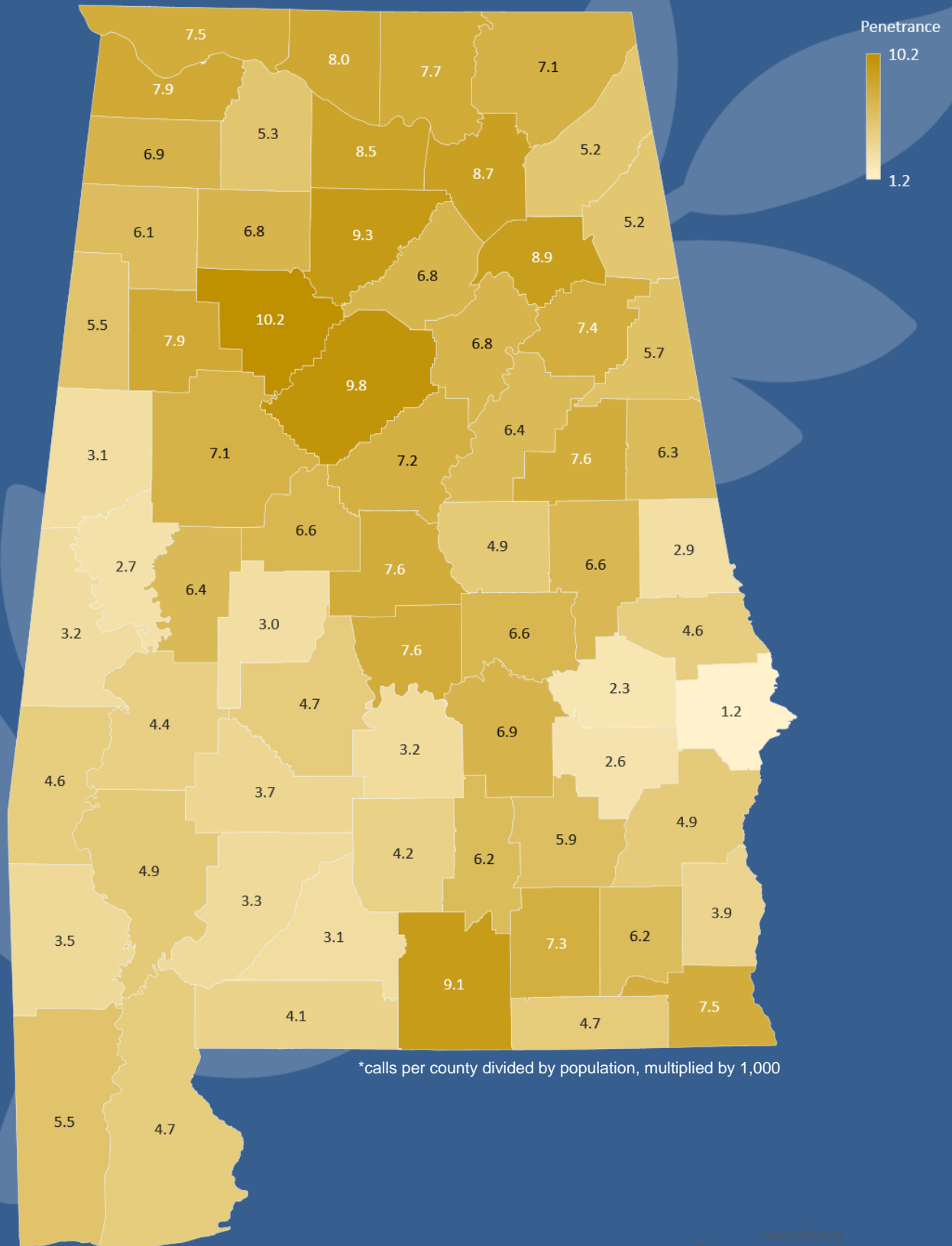
According to 1,890 responses to the 2020 APIC Patient Satisfaction Survey, if the poison center was not available **49%** would have called or visited their primary care physician, **25%** would have gone to the emergency department, **16%** would have called 911, and **10%** would have called another healthcare provider (HCP), friend, or tried to find information on the internet.

“The pharmacist was very kind during my moments of panic and really calmed me and resolved the issue”

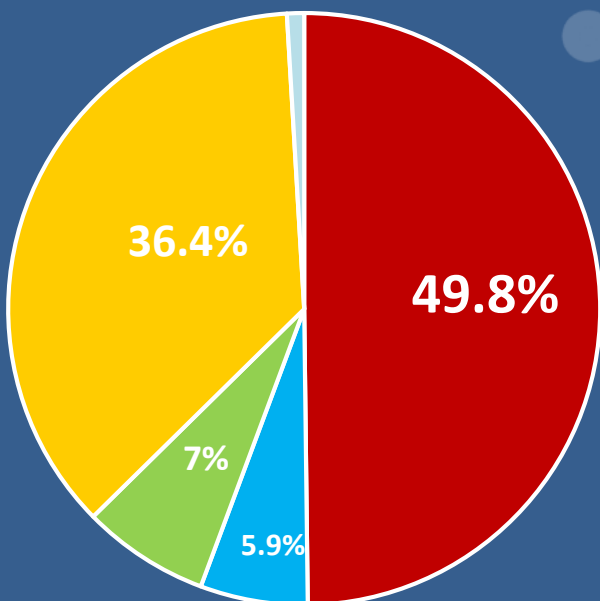
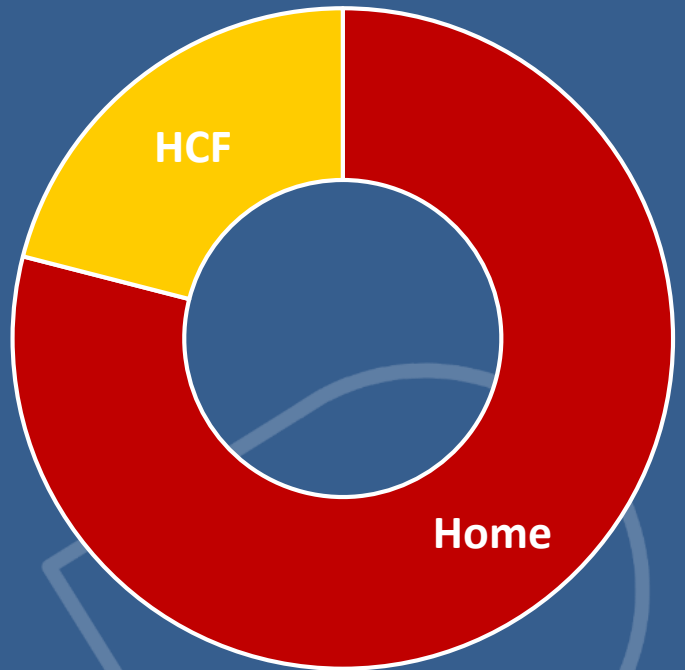
“Y’all went above and beyond!!! Even called back to check on my child!! Thank you... thank you for being there for us frantic parents!!!!”

“Called while visiting Birmingham and I was highly impressed and satisfied with the service and follow up every hour through hour 4 checking my son’s status. This brought me comfort.”

Calls per County per 1,000 Residents



79% of the calls made to the APIC came from patients at home. The remaining **21%** of calls came from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and other health care providers.



Call Volume by Patient Age	
<6 years	17,125
6-12 years	2,018
13-19 years	2,390
>20 years	12,521
Unknown	320



In 2020 the APIC hosted 10 PharmD candidates. The rotation involves traveling to Senior Centers to teach older adults about medication safety, trips to the Birmingham Zoo to see venomous and nonvenomous snakes native to Alabama, and taking calls in the Poison Center.



Due to the pandemic, APIC staff were unable to participate in all normally scheduled community health events and public education programs.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic APIC staff volunteered to feed families at the Ronald McDonald house on multiple occasions and continued our partnership with the 1-2-3, Play with Me program at the Birmingham Public Libraries.

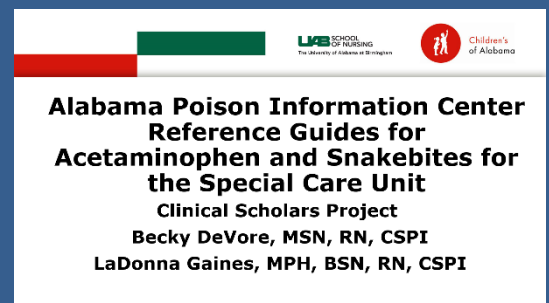
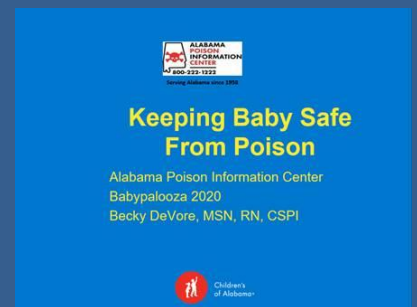
Along with Healthy Child Care of Alabama the APIC provided 1231 training sessions reaching a total of 6403 Alabamians.

The APIC participated in the 2020 Salamander Festival, distributing materials related to snake bites and other poison exposures.



The APIC's educator delivered a presentation at the 2020 Virtual Babypalooza that was attended by hundreds of Alabamians.

The APIC's Manager and Educator participated in the Jarmon Lowder Clinical Scholar's Program, a partnership between the UAB School of Nursing and Children's of Alabama. Each year nurses and nurse practitioners who are accepted into the 12-month program develop, implement, and evaluate unit-based projects that align with Children's initiatives. Participating scholars also receive targeted content designed to facilitate leadership development. *Alabama Poison Information Center Reference Guides for Acetaminophen and Snakebites for the Special Care Unit* was presented to COA and UAB leadership in December.





Five months a year APIC hosts onsite a medical toxicology elective offered to senior medical students, pharmacy students, and medical residents. The course focuses on care of the poisoned patient through treating patients at the bedside at UAB hospital, daily review of APIC's cases, didactics focusing on critical care toxicity, simulations in managing the intoxicated patient, and regional field trips to identify poisonous plants, mushrooms, and snakes of Alabama. Faculty is multidisciplinary with expertise in pharmacology, toxicology, hyperbaric medicine, wilderness medicine, and international medicine. In the current academic year, 12 emergency medicine residents, 8 medical students, and two pharmacy students have completed the course.

APIC in the Media

- Alabama Poison Information Center, Children's of Alabama sees spike in number of people sickened by cleaning products
<https://abc3340.com/news/local/poison-control-seeing-spike-in-number-of-people-poisoned-by-cleaning-products>
- The most dangerous rooms in your home - Interview with Style Blue Print
<https://styleblueprint.com/birmingham/everyday/the-most-dangerous-rooms-in-your-home/https://styleblueprint.com/birmingham/everyday/the-most-dangerous-rooms-in-your-home/>
- How to keep your kiddos safe while at home, from a poison control expert
<https://bhamnow.com/2020/04/14/how-to-keep-your-kiddos-safe-while-at-home-from-a-poison-control-expert/>
- Calls to poison control centers are up
<https://www.wbrc.com/2020/04/23/calls-poison-control-centers-are-up/>
- Coronavirus cleaning leads to uptick in Alabama Poison Information Centers calls
<https://www.waaytv.com/content/coronavirus-content/Cleaning-products-resulting-in-uptick-of-calls-to-Alabama-Poison-Control-Center--569867311.html>
- APIC reports spike in calls during COVID-19
<https://www.wkrg.com/health/coronavirus/poison-control-center-reports-spike-in-calls-during-covid-19-due-to-cleaning-product-exposure/>
- An Illegal Dietary Supplement Named Tianeptine Is Being Sold to Americans, and the FDA Knows It
<https://www.consumerreports.org/dietary-supplements/tianeptine-illegal-dietary-supplement-is-being-sold-and-the-fda-knows-it/>
- "Gas station dope." The legal and personal battles over Tianeptine
<https://www.alreporter.com/2020/12/16/gas-station-dope-the-legal-and-personal-battles-over-tianeptine/>

Alabama's Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures

1. Household Cleaning Substances
2. Cosmetics
3. Analgesics
4. Dietary Supplements/Herbals
5. Foreign Bodies/Toys
6. Vitamins
7. Antihistamines
8. Pesticides
9. Topical Preparations
10. Plants

National Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures*

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*National data for the year 2019, 2020 data will not be published until 12/2021



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