About the RPCC

The Regional Poison Control Center (RPCC) has been a long-term commitment of Children’s of Alabama to the citizenry of Alabama since 1958. The RPCC 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 RPCC provides free and confidential lifesaving information 24/7/365. The specialists in poison information (SPIs) who answer the RPCC hotline are nurses and pharmacists trained in toxicology and are nationally certified. The RPCC 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.
In 2019 the RPCC handled 108,648 calls.

- **52,267** incoming calls resulting in **40,991** cases/charts
  - **35,453** human exposures (multiple calls per case)
  - **3,984** information calls
  - **1,554** animal exposures
- **56,381** follow-up calls

The RPCC monitors **83%** of poison exposure calls from home on-site. In children <6 years old, >90% are monitored at home rather than being referred to a healthcare facility.

The RPCC is available to patients of all ages. In 2019, we handled calls on patients that ranged from **2 days** to **99 years** old!

According to 1,324 responses to the 2019 RPCC Patient Satisfaction Survey, if the poison center was not available **43%** would have called or visited their primary care physician, **32%** would have gone to the emergency department, **15%** would have called 911, and **10%** would have called another healthcare provider (HCP), friend, or tried to find information on the internet.
Calls per County per 1,000 Residents

*calls per county divided by population, multiplied by 1,000
72% of the calls made to the RPCC came from patients at home. The remaining 28% of calls came from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and other health care providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Volume by Patient Age</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;6 years</td>
<td>17,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–12 years</td>
<td>2,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–19 years</td>
<td>2,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;20 years</td>
<td>12,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The RPCC presented three posters at NACCT 2019 in Nashville.
The RPCC staff participated in 156 hours of community health events and provided public education programs attended by approximately 8,000 Alabamians.

Along with Healthy Child Care of Alabama the RPCC provided 710 training sessions reaching a total of 4,301 Alabamians.
The RPCC hosted 14 PharmD candidates from the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy and the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy in 2019.

Pharmacy students learn about toxic exposures, envenomations, and take poison and drug information calls while on rotation in the Poison Center.

They also presented 7 Adult Medication Safety Programs at local Senior Centers.

The RPCC also hosted 12 UAB residents and 15 medical students.
Alabama’s Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures
1. Household Cleaning Substances
2. Cosmetics
3. Analgesics
4. Foreign Bodies/Toys
5. Dietary Supplements/Herbals
6. Antihistamines
7. Pesticides
8. Topical Preparations
9. Vitamins
10. GI Preparations

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*National data for the year 2018, 2019 data will not be published until 12/2020

(800) 222-1222

www.ChildrensAL.org/RPCC