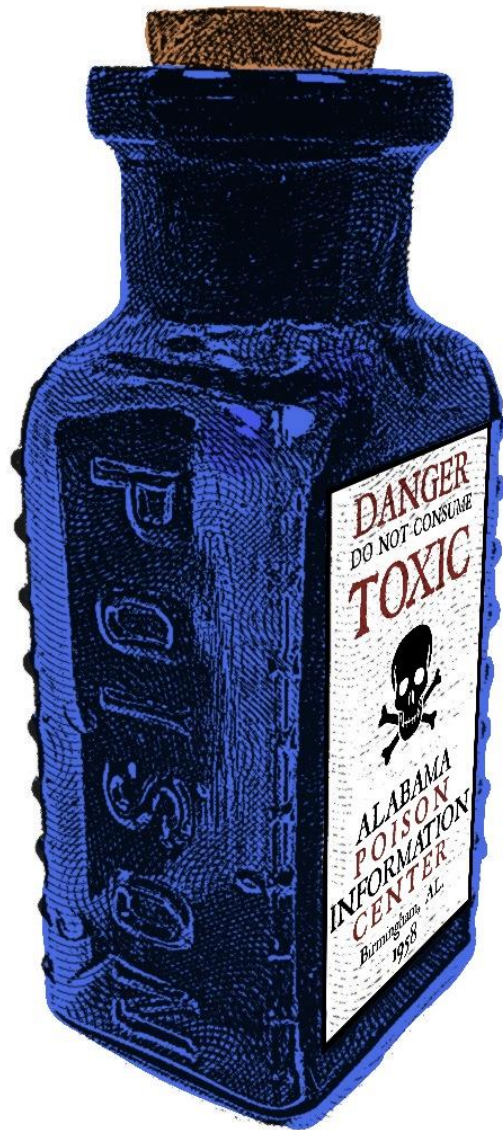


2021 Annual Report



Children's
of Alabama®



ALABAMA
POISON
INFORMATION
CENTER

800-222-1222

About the 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.



ALABAMA POISON INFORMATION CENTER

800-222-1222

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

A red pill bottle with a white cap. On the front of the bottle is a white skull and crossbones symbol. The bottle is positioned between the words 'Help' and 'p' in the 'POISON Help' logo.



In **2021** the APIC handled
110,464 calls.

- **50,462** incoming calls resulting in **39,574** cases
 - **35,080** human exposures
 - **2,874** information calls
 - **1,620** animal exposures
- **60,002** follow-up calls

The APIC monitors **>85%** of poison exposure calls from home on-site. In children <6 years old, **>91%** are monitored at home rather than being referred to a healthcare facility.

The APIC is available to patients of all ages. In 2021, we handled calls on patients that ranged from **3 days** to **100 years** old!

"We were very impressed with how our issue was handled. The pharmacist was knowledgeable about the effects of exposure especially related to our child's age. They told us what to do and could've left it at that but instead they called us back twice during the evening to check and make sure everything was ok. Very good experience."

"I had the pleasure of talking to a nurse who coached me through everything and reassured me several times that I would be okay. I am a person with high anxiety and she calmed me down and got me to a point where I didn't worry. I am so happy to have spoken to her and thank her so much for comforting me as I was terrified! I was so scared...even after talking to the pharmacist, he gave me your number."

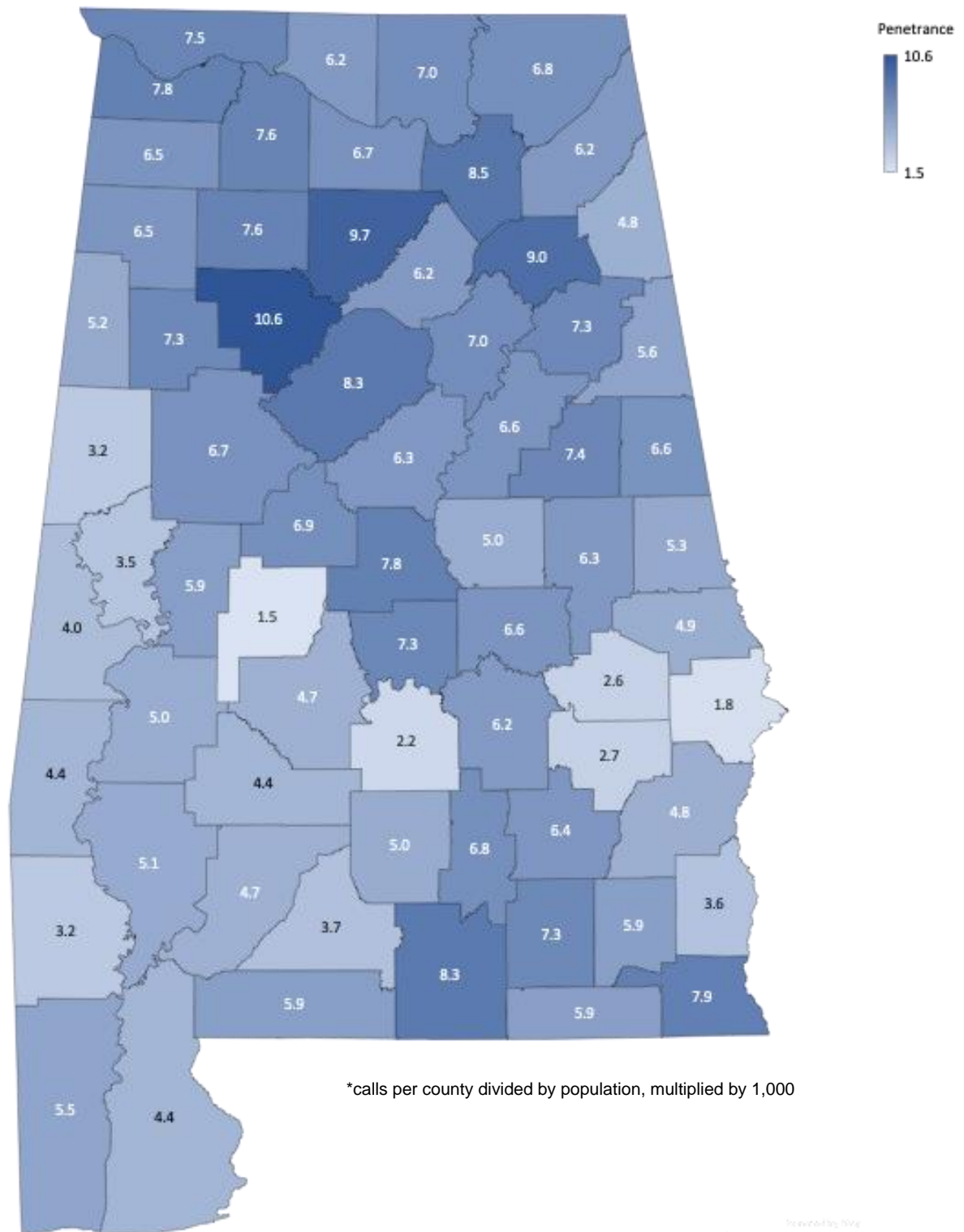
"I appreciated the poison control specialist following up and calling me to check on my son 1 hour later. It shows that y'all care about our children."

According to 1,673 responses to the 2021 APIC Patient Satisfaction Survey, if the poison center was not available **42%** would have called or visited their primary care physician, **30%** would have gone to the emergency department, **17%** would have called 911, and **11%** would have called another healthcare provider (HCP), friend, or tried to find information on the internet.

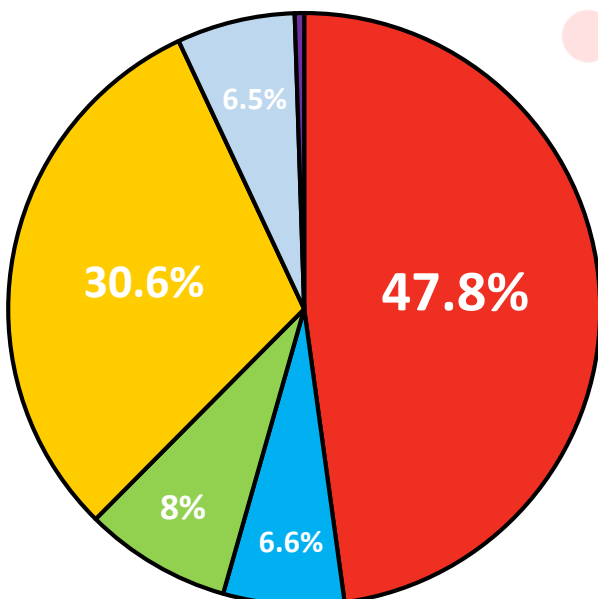
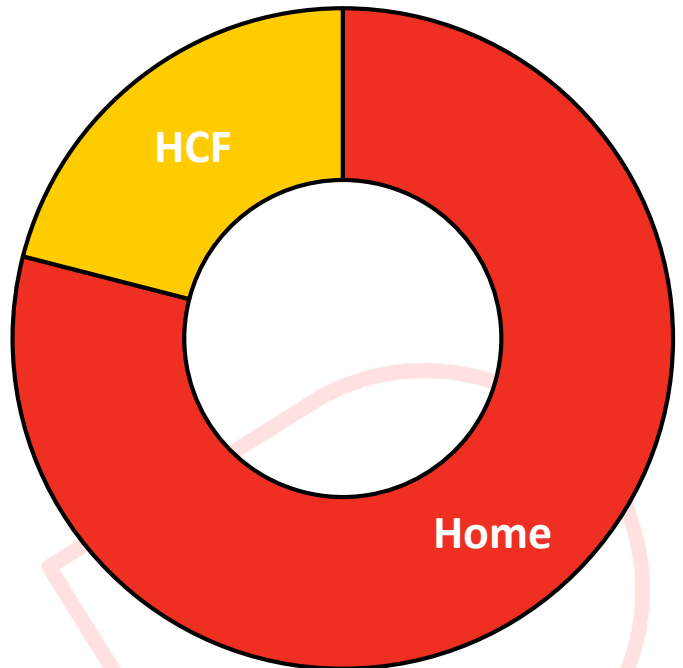
"Very much appreciated! I was frantic but the specialist was quickly able to assume control of the situation both calming me down while providing me knowledgeable information and advice to ensure my child was safe and well. I can't express how grateful I was for her assistance this evening."

"They gave me reassurance that my daughter would be okay. They picked up the phone quickly and gave simple instructions and also called back in a hour to check on us. I deeply appreciate them!!"

Calls per County per 1,000 Residents



77% of the calls made to the APIC came from patients at home. The remaining **23%** of calls came from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and other health care providers.



Call Volume by Patient Age	
<6 years	16,775
6–12 years	2,315
13–19 years	2,815
20–64 years	10,730
≥65 years	2,265
Unknown	180

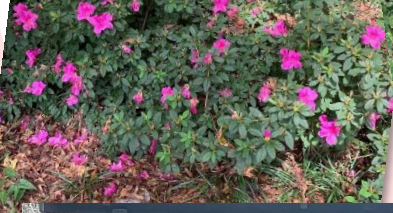
In 2021 the APIC hosted 9 PharmD candidate rotators. The rotation involves researching and presenting information about toxic substances, trips to the Birmingham Zoo to see venomous and nonvenomous snakes native to Alabama, and taking calls in the Poison Center.

Fourteen PharmD students completed the Current Topics in Toxicology elective at the McWhorter School of Pharmacy and visited Birmingham Botanical Gardens to see nonpoisonous and poisonous plants.

Five months a year there is 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 Alabama Poison Information Center 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 residents, 8 medical students, and 2 pharmacy students have completed the course.





In 2021 the APIC participated in **50** hours of community health events, engaging with the public and distributing poison information to approximately **2,000** Alabamians.

Along with Health Child Care of Alabama (HCCA) the APIC provided **1,733** poison prevention programs reaching a total of **8,802** parents throughout all 67 counties.

HCCA nurses distributed **15,332** poison prevention items provided by the APIC.



APIC in the Media

[Supplements sold at Alabama gas stations causing spike in overdoses](#)

[Safe Summer Camping](#)

[Calls in Alabama over ivermectin poisoning on track to nearly triple in 2021, poison center says](#)

[Ivermectin calls to Alabama poison center have more than doubled](#)

[Ivermectin exposures in Alabama](#)

[Alabama Poison Control Fields More Calls About Ivermectin](#)

[Alabama Poison Information Center and Ivermectin](#)

[Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl](#)

[Our newest version of our App, Poison Perils of Alabama, was launched and is available in the App Store and Google Play](#)

[Naloxone Uses in Pediatrics](#)

[Holiday Hazards](#)

[Natural Products Insider: Tianeptine, Phenibut, and Kratom](#)

Alabama's Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures

1. Cleaning Products
2. Cosmetics
3. Dietary Supplements
4. Analgesics
5. Foreign Bodies
6. Antihistamines
7. Vitamins
8. Pesticides
9. Topicals
10. GI Preparations

National Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures

1. Cosmetics
2. Cleaning Products
3. Analgesics
4. Dietary Supplements
5. Foreign Bodies
6. Vitamins
7. Antihistamines
8. Topicals
9. Plants
10. Pesticides

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www.ChildrensAL.org/APIIC