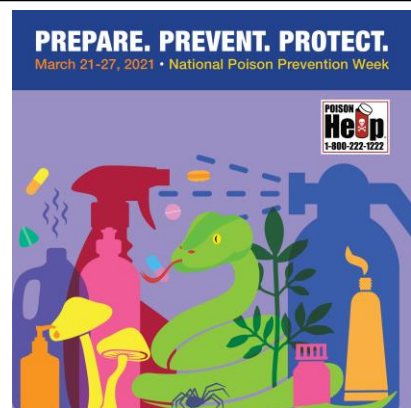




Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

March 2021



Did you know

Seventy-three percent of the poison exposures reported to the IPCC in 2020 were accidental and thereby preventable exposures.

National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), March 21-27, is dedicated to raising awareness of poisonings, poison control centers and the Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222). If you would like to join the IPCC in educating the public on the dangers of poisonings for all ages and promote poison prevention, you can download our partner toolkit here: <https://piper.filecamp.com/s/A10VeCCUwjaZBA44/fi>. The toolkit contains the 2021 NPPW images that can simply be downloaded for use on social media during #NPPW21.

2020 Iowa Poison Control Data

The Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC) is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as a regional poison center. IPCC nurses and pharmacists who are nationally certified as Specialists in Poison Information answer calls 24 hours a day, every day of the year. In 2020, our experts managed 26,814 cases: 23,957 human poisonings, 928 animal poisonings, and 1,929 poison or drug information calls.

- 41% of poisonings involved children 5 years of age and younger.
- Intentional self-harm exposures by tweens (i.e. 9-12 years old) continue to rise with 12-year-old females being 69% of these reported exposures.
- A medication error (e.g. wrong medicine, wrong route, wrong dose, drug interaction) was the cause of 14% of poisonings overall. In patients 60 years old or over, 44% of exposures involved medication errors.
- Thirty-one percent of calls originated from health care facilities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, urgent cares). The IPCC referred an additional 2,413 patients to health care facilities.

Top 3 substance exposure categories by age group

Children ≤ 5 yrs	Older children & teens 6-19 yrs	Adults 20-59	Seniors ≥60 yrs
Household Cleaners (11.5%)	Analgesics (17%)	Sedative / hypnotics / Antipsychotics (14%)	Cardiovascular Drugs (15%)
Cosmetics / Personal Care Products (11.3%)	Antidepressants (13%)	Antidepressants (11%)	Analgesics (9%)
Analgesics (8%)	Sedative / hypnotics / Antipsychotics (7%)	Analgesics (11%)	Antidepressants (6%)

De-identified case data from all IPCC cases is uploaded in real time to the National Poison Data System. NPDS continually runs surveillance algorithms searching the data for poisoning outbreaks and unusual symptom clusters.

Even if you don't need assistance, the IPCC kindly asks you to report poison exposures to **1-800-222-1222** in order to help the IPCC show the true incidence and severity of poisonings in our state.



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Post and share this edition of **Poison Hotline** with your colleagues. Send comments or questions to Poison Hotline, 712-234-8775 (fax) or Tammy.Noble@UnityPoint.org. To subscribe or unsubscribe from this distribution list, contact the IPCC education office at 712-279-3717. Read past issues of **Poison Hotline** at www.iowapoisn.org.