



# Iowa Poison Control Center Highlights – FY 2019

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. Poison control centers save countless lives and millions of tax dollars. The Iowa Poison Control Center is one of 55 accredited centers in the U.S. providing free, confidential, and expert medical advice via the **Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222**. The poison center nurses, pharmacists, and doctors staff the line 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Poison Control at your fingertips.

**Text POISON to 797979**  
to add Poison Control as a contact in your mobile phone.





BE PREPARED ANYTIME & ANYWHERE WITH #POISONHELP

## WHO?

**Who needs Poison Help?** Anyone can experience a poison emergency. In FY 2018, just under half of the cases managed by the Iowa Poison Control Center involved children younger than six years old, but most of the more serious cases occurred among teens and adults.

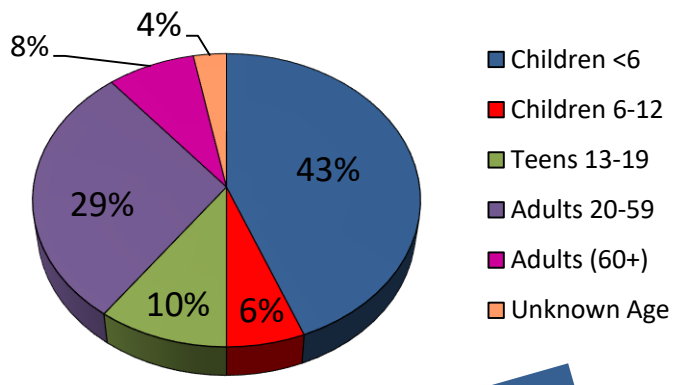
**30% of exposure calls to the IPCC came from healthcare providers**

**When someone calls the poison center, who answers the phone?** Poison center cases are managed by medical experts – doctors, nurses and pharmacists who have extensive training in clinical toxicology.

## WHAT?

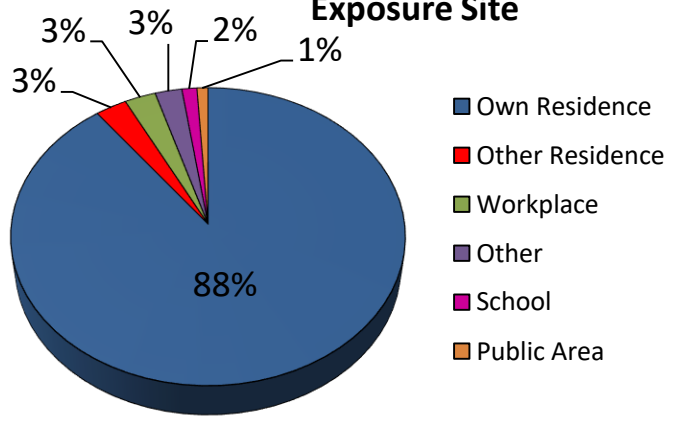
**What to expect when calling the Poison Help line?** Your call will be answered by a Specialist in Poison Information who will determine how serious the situation is and guide you through treatment recommendations. Your phone number may be obtained for follow-up. If you are referred to a hospital, the IPCC will partner with the health care providers managing your care and continue to make recommendations as necessary.

**Age Distribution of Human Exposures**



**The IPCC answers nearly 100 calls per day**

**Exposure Site**



# WHEN?

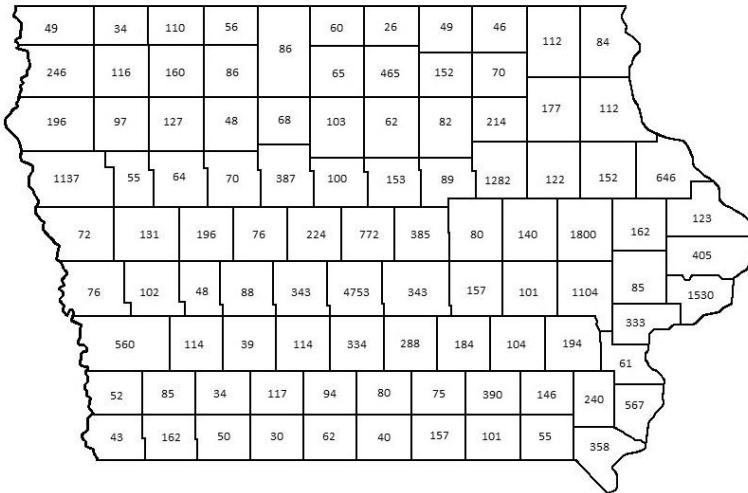
**Iowa Poison Control Center Experts** answer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Higher call volumes are observed in the warmer months.

# Where?

**Where are the poisoning cases managed?** In FY 2018, over 88% of calls from the public were managed on-site preventing unnecessary trips to the ER. Studies show if the IPCC wasn't available, 73% would go to ER.

## Serving All 99 Counties

Poison center utilization and awareness of its services directly results in decrease injury or deaths and reduces unnecessary ER visits.

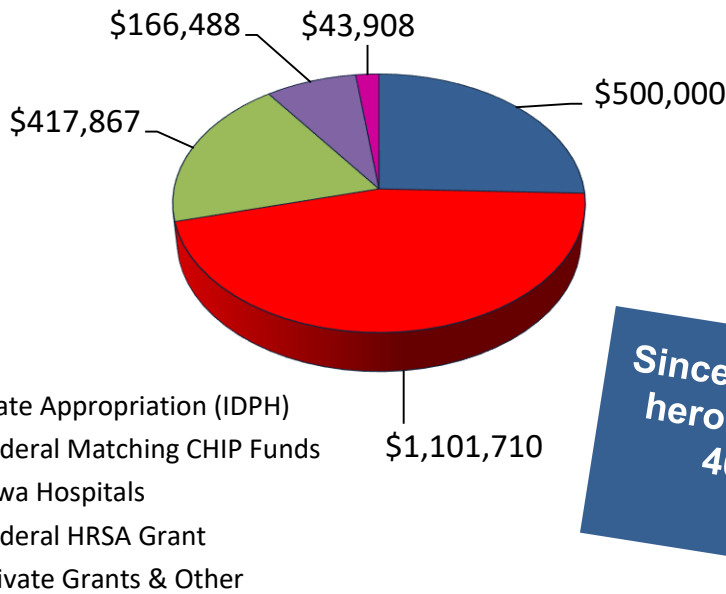


**Every \$1 invested in the IPCC saves at least \$13 in medical costs**



Estimated annual cost **savings to Iowans** is more than \$12 million. IPCC staff prevented over 11,600 ER visits and saved nearly \$6 million in Medicaid savings last year alone.

## Public-Private Partnership Revenue Sources



## Top 10 Substance Categories Involved

### All Ages

Pain Relievers	9.5%
Antidepressant	6.9%
Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics	6.6%
Household Cleaning Products	5.6%
Cosmetics/Personal Care	4.8%
Cardiovascular Drugs	4.0%
Antihistamines	3.9%
Alcohols	3.2%
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Misc.	2.8%
Pesticides	2.5%

**Since 2009, calls to the IPCC involving heroin overdoses have increased by 400% and methamphetamine overdoses by 288%**

**Savings Lives. Saving Money.**

1-800-222-1222

Visit us at [www.iowapoison.org](http://www.iowapoison.org)

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