Caring for every Tennessee resident

TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

2011 ANNUAL REPORT
TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

OUR MISSION

Tennessee Poison Center is dedicated to the prevention of poisonings in the home, the workplace, and the environment. Tennessee Poison Center provides clinical advice to the public and healthcare community for the treatment of exposures to drug, chemical, plant, and envenomation.

Tennessee Poison Center’s goals are to prevent poisonings, minimize poisoning complications, and reduce the number of poison related deaths through telephone hotline intervention, public education, professional education, and clinical research.
TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

FAST FACTS

Tennessee Poison Center (TPC) saves lives.
- Poisoning is the 2nd leading cause of injury death in Tennessee, trailing only motor vehicle accidents.
- TPC is the only poison control center in Tennessee and provides immediate medical help in a poison emergency.
- Anyone can be a poison victim. Children and older adults are the most likely poison victims.
- TPC managed more than 102,000 cases in 2011.

Tennessee Poison Center prevents pediatric poisonings.
- TPC provides treatment advice and information for parents, pediatricians, emergency medical staff, school nurses, and guidance counselors.
- 55% of the poisonings reported to TPC in 2011 involved children age 5 and under. Because of TPC’s quick response time and the high level of expertise, most of these children made a full recovery. At the same time, thousands of dollars did not have to be spent on medical treatment.
- Unintentional medication exposures remain a serious threat to the health of young children.

Tennessee Poison Center saves money for taxpayers.
- Every $1 spent on poison control services saves an estimated $10 in other medical spending.
- This 7:1 cost-benefit ratio is more than 3 times that of child safety seats, smoke detectors, or bike helmets.

TPC saved the state of Tennessee an estimated $14 million in 2011 by preventing ER visits for the underinsured.
TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

Tennessee Poison Center (TPC) is the comprehensive poison resource center for Tennessee residents. Since 2004 TPC has provided poison control service for all 95 Tennessee counties. TPC is designated as the statewide poison control center by the Tennessee Department of Health, and TPC is one of 57 U.S. poison centers certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).

OUR PROGRAMS

Tennessee Poison Center provides the highest standard of poison control service to Tennessee residents. Below is a brief description of our programs:

Statewide Poison Help hotline (1-800-222-1222) for poison emergency and information calls.

- The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All calls are free of charge.
- Calls are answered by specially trained and certified physicians, pharmacists, and registered nurses who are staff, not volunteers.
- Callers receive confidential, free, professional treatment advice for any type of poisoning.
- In 2011, the poison experts at TPC answered 102,994 calls.
- 35,686 poison emergency calls were treated over the phone, under the monitoring of the poison specialist. This avoids unnecessary trips to the doctor or hospital.
- Interpreters are available for over 150 languages.

24 Hour bioterrorism surveillance

- TPC provides every Tennessee resident 24 hour surveillance for chemical and biological terrorism.
- Symptom data from every county is sent to Washington, DC for analysis every fifteen minutes.
- TPC is alerted to any anomaly for investigation and verification.
- TPC toxicologists are members of local and state disaster preparedness committees.
- TPC provides education to the TN Department of Health and the medical community regarding topics of bioterrorism, chemical agents, and surveillance. In 2011, TPC presented 51 toxicosurveillance lectures.

Poison prevention education

- TPC provides poison prevention education to the public and healthcare professionals.
- TPC partners with the University of Tennessee Extension to provide poison prevention education statewide.
- In 2011, TPC staff provided poison prevention presentations to over 9,000 Tennessee residents.
- 744,732 pieces of poison prevention literature were distributed statewide.

This project is funded under an agreement with the Department of Health.
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**Type of Call**
- Exposure: 49,635
- Information: 53,359
- TOTAL 2011 CALLS: 102,994

**Where Poison Exposures Occurred**
- Home: 46,987
- School: 305
- Workplace: 474
- Other Residence: 921
- Healthcare Facility: 124
- Restaurant: 60
- Public Area: 313
- Other: 451

**Age of Poison Victim**
- 0-5: 27,412
- 6-19: 5,567
- 20-49: 8,264
- 50+: 4,016
- Unknown: 4,376

**Type of Exposure**
- Unintentional: 41,198
- Intentional: 7,152
- Adverse Reaction: 847
- Unknown/Other: 438

**Where Poison Exposures are Managed**
- On site/not in a health care facility: 35,686
- In a healthcare facility: 13,093
- Other: 255
- Refused Referral/Unknown: 601

**Top Substances for Poison Fatalities**
1. Analgesics
2. Sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics
3. Antidepressants
4. Cardiovascular drugs
5. Unknown drug/miscellaneous drug
6. Stimulants and street drugs
7. Cough and cold preparations
8. Alcohols

**Exposures Ranked by County**
1. Davidson
2. Shelby
3. Knox
4. Hamilton
5. Rutherford
Anyone can be a poison victim. From the youngest to the oldest, poisoning is a serious health concern in Tennessee. According to the most recent CDC data, poisoning is the 2nd leading cause of injury death in Tennessee, trailing only motor vehicle accidents. Some of the poisoning calls managed by the poison specialists at TPC include:

- A young child who swallowed a medicine because it looked like candy
- An older adult who mistakenly took an extra dose of her daily medications
- A student who had a reaction to a brown recluse spider bite
- A teen who overdosed on prescription pain medicine
- A hiker who received a snake bite when he accidentally stepped on a copperhead.

The poison specialists at Tennessee Poison Center answer over 250 calls every day. Below is a per county listing of the number of calls received in 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2011 CALLS</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2011 CALLS</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2011 CALLS</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2011 CALLS</th>
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</table>
TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

Tennessee Poison Center is funded through a combination of federal, state, and private sources with the support of its host institution, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. In FY 2011, the following organizations and individuals contributed to the programs at TPC:

Hospitals—78% of Tennessee hospitals support TPC by being a member of TPC’s Hospital Consortium.

- Athens Regional Medical Center
- Baptist Convalescent Center
- Baptist Hospital
- Baptist Hospital for Women
- Baptist Hospital of Cocke County
- Baptist Hospital West
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Collierville
- Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Huntington
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Memphis
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Tipton
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Union City
- Baptist Rehabilitation Germantown
- Blount Memorial Hospital
- Bolivar General Hospital
- Camden General Hospital
- Centennial Medical Center
- Cookeville Regional Medical Center
- Crockett General Hospital
- Cumberland Medical Center
- Decatur County General Hospital
- Delta Medical Center
- Dyersburg Regional Medical Center
- East Tennessee Children’s Hospital
- Emerald Hodgson Hospital
- Franklin Woods Community Hospital
- Gateway Medical Center
- Gibson General Hospital
- Grandview Medical Center
- Hardin Medical Center
- Harton Regional Medical Center
- Hawkins County Memorial Hospital
- Haywood Park Community Hospital
- Hendersonville Medical Center
- Henry County Medical Center
- Hickman Community Hospital
- Hillside Hospital
- Horizon Medical Center
- Humboldt General Hospital
- Indian Path Medical Center
- Jackson-Madison County General Hospital
- Jamestown Regional Medical Center
- Jellico Community Hospital
- Johnson City Medical Center
- Johnson County Community Hospital
- Lakeway Regional Hospital
- Laughlin Memorial Hospital
- Lebonheur Children’s Medical Center
- Lincoln Medical Center
- Livingston Regional Hospital
- Macon County General Hospital
- Marshall Medical Center
- Maury Regional Hospital
- McNairy Hospital
- Memorial Healthcare System
- Methodist Healthcare—North Hospital
- Methodist Healthcare—South Hospital
- Methodist Healthcare—University Hospital
- Memorial Healthcare—Germantown Hospital
- Middle Tennessee Medical Center
- Milan General Hospital
- Nashville General Hospital
- North Side Hospital
- Parkridge Medical Center
- Patients’ Choice Medical Center of Erin, TN
- Perry Community Hospital
- Quillen Rehabilitation Hospital
- Regional Hospital of Jackson
- Restoration Healthcare of Celina
- Rhea Medical Center
- River Park Hospital
- Riverview Regional Medical Center
- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- St. Mary’s Health and Rehab of Campbell County
- St. Mary’s Jefferson Memorial Hospital
- St. Mary’s Medical Center
- St. Mary’s Medical Center of Campbell County
- St. Mary’s Medical Center of Scott County
- St. Thomas Hospital
- Skyline Medical Center
- SkyRidge Medical Center
- Southern Hills Medical Center
- Southern Tennessee Medical Center
- StoneCrest Medical Center
- Summit Medical Center
- Sumner Regional Medical Center
- Sycamore Shoals Hospital
- Takoma Regional Hospital
- Transitional Care Unit
- Trousdale Medical Center
- United Regional Medical Center
- U.T. Medical Center
- Unicoi County Memorial Hospital
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Volunteer Hospital
- Wayne Medical Center
- Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center
- White County Community Hospital
- Williamson Medical Center
- Woodridge Psychiatric Hospital
- Woods Memorial Hospital

Grants and Donations

- Randy Atkins
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- Richard and Marcia Cowan
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- Cerisia Cummings
- Lavender Flagg
- Harold Fowille
- Roger Hamby
- Ann Hunt
- Jackie Jones
- Barbara Kaczmarska, MD
- Laura Kefee
- Robert W. Kinnard
- Ronald Kirby
- Kraft Foods Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- Jan Scharff
- T&F Family Foundation
- Tenessee Department of Health
- Susan Thurber
- Vivian Umfress
- United Fund of Cumberland County
- United Way of Bedford County
- United Way of Cheatham County
- United Way of DeKalb County
- United Way of Dickson County
- United Way of Franklin County
- United Way of Greene County
- United Way of the Highland Rim
- United Way of Maury County
- United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
- United Way of the Mid-South
- United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties
- United Way of Sumner County
- United Way of Williamson County
- United Way of Wilson County
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
- Wanda Wade
- Saralyn R. Williams
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