



PALMETTO POISON CENTER

University of South Carolina, College of Pharmacy
Coker Life Sciences Building, Suite 313
(803) 777-7909 (business) • 1-800-222-1222

ORGANIZATION SUMMARY

- **Palmetto Poison Center (PPC) is the only poison control center for all of SC**
- **Nationally accredited by the American Association of Poison Control Centers**
- **Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**
- **Pharmacists and nurses trained as specialists in poison information**
- **~31,000 human exposure incoming calls managed in 2022**
- **53% of cases are exposures in children \leq 18 years of age**
- **Poison Prevention Education**
- **Professional education in medical toxicology**
- **Public Health Surveillance**
- **Pharmacy student and medical resident education**

SERVICES

Services are free of charge to all SC residents and health professionals 24/7/365

Provide treatment information via a toll-free hotline, 1-800-222-1222:

- Accidental and intentional ingestions of poisonous substances and medications
- Management of snake, spider, and marine envenomations
- Substance abuse and withdrawal
- Plant and mushroom ingestions
- Adverse drug effects
- Occupational exposures and biochemical disasters

Three board-certified medical toxicologists provide on call toxicology consults

Poison Prevention Education for the public

- Pediatric and Adult-Based Programs offered at the community level to include schools, daycare centers, head start programs, low-income housing developments, senior facilities, and neighborhood centers
- Partnerships with Safe Kids, DSS, Head Start, SC DHEC, SC School Nurse Association, and various faith-based organizations
- Pediatric population is targeted via direct programming initiatives and material distribution through pediatricians
- Media interviews, public service announcements, and social media campaigns

Professional education for health care professionals across South Carolina

Public Health Surveillance – National Poison Data System

- Food poisonings, animal bites, biochemical exposures, carbon monoxide exposures

LOCATION/STAFFING

University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, Coker Life Sciences, Suite 313

Website URL: poison.sc.edu

Medical Director – William Richardson, MD

Managing Director – Jill Michels, PharmD

Assistant Medical Director – Luke Hardison, DO

Public Health Educator – Christina DeRienzo

Poison Information Specialists: 5 pharmacists, 2 nurses

CALL VOLUME 2022

53% of calls involve poison exposures to children ≤ 18 years old

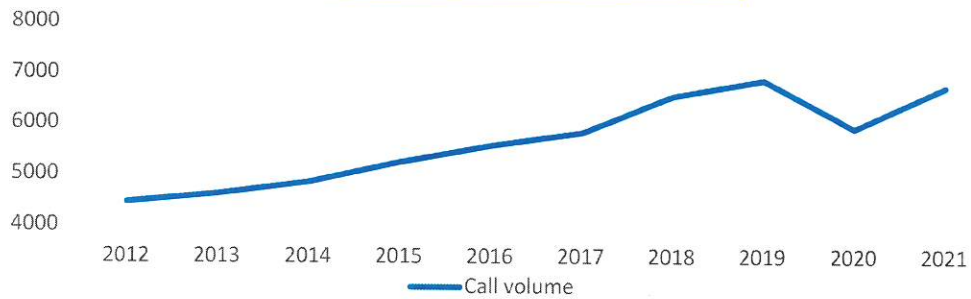
Total incoming call volume: 30,747 with an average of 2500 follow up calls/month

Toxicologists were consulted on over 500 cases

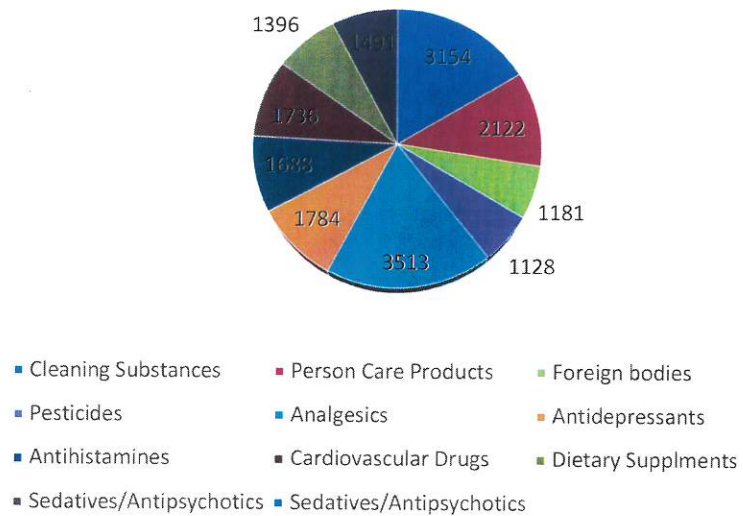
Total calls including follow-up calls: 60,747

CALLS FROM SC HOSPITALS WITH THE PATIENT ALREADY IN THE HOSPITAL

66% increase from 2012 to 2022



Top 10 Substance Categories 2022



COST SAVINGS

US PCCs save more than \$1.8 billion in medical costs and lost productivity annually

- Every \$1 of funding to PCCs saves an estimated \$13 in unnecessary health care costs
- Poison center usage decreases the hospital length of stay for patients requiring hospital admission by 10% for Medicaid beneficiaries
- ~14% decrease in likelihood of hospital admission if PCC contacted
- Over 90% of callers to the Palmetto Poison Center do not require referral to a health facility