



Real lives.
Real impact.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





The **human** equation.

At the center of the Missouri Poison Center's mission is a story of human interest and societal impact: the invaluable work of protecting Missourians from toxin-related health emergencies.

Yet the Missouri Poison Center saves more than lives. As part of America's Poison Centers' network, we contribute to the national organization's \$3.1 billion in healthcare savings and benefits*. In fact, every dollar spent by Poison Centers generates an estimated \$16.77 in benefits due to avoidable medical use, reduced length of hospital stays, mortality risk reduction, and more.

The Missouri Poison Center is proud to play a role through our continued commitment to exceptional outcomes, communication modernization, expanded

education programs, and unwavering dedication to Missouri's people and communities. It's a calculus that goes beyond numbers to deliver extraordinary value to all those we serve.

Empowering through education.

At the Missouri Poison Center, we meet new challenges with new approaches, avenues, and outlets to education. We answer the changing needs and technology of Missourians with public education, professional education, and the rigorous review of guidelines to ensure accuracy and adherence to industry best practices. The result? While the average nationwide rate of referral to the emergency room is 7.6%, it's only 5.25% in Missouri.

According to a 2026 report published by the RAND research organization, nationally every \$1 dollar spent on services by American poison centers generates a return of \$16.77 in benefits, half of which are savings on health care costs. Applying this estimate to the **Missouri Poison Center**, our modest \$3.9 million budget allows us to provide services that **save approximately, \$32 million in health care costs each year.**

*2026 RAND Report "Poison Prevention, Treatment and Detection as Public Health Investments"

\$1 spent = \$16.77 saved

Every dollar spent on services by Poison Centers generates an estimated \$16.77 in benefits.

\$3.1 billion in overall healthcare savings and benefits

- + Fewer emergency room visits.
- + Reduced emergency transportation costs.
- + Shorter hospital stays.
- + Reduced risk of death.

\$450 million in healthcare cost savings

America's Poison Centers estimates that federal appropriated funds to Poison Centers save \$450 million annually in health care costs.

+

POISON CENTERS ALSO PROVIDE OTHER DIFFICULT-TO-MONETIZE BENEFITS SUCH AS PREVENTION, EDUCATION, ENHANCED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND INCREASED PEACE OF MIND.

Public education

We provide education about substance exposure, abuse, and overdose by working with teachers, students, and communities, taking care to ensure connection with people across Missouri, including hard-to-reach and disadvantaged audiences.

The Missouri Poison Center:

- Focused Google ads to reach medically underserved counties in Missouri
- Encouraged more than 1,600 Missouri Poison Center app downloads
- Taught 16 classes about poison prevention

to more than 200 to high school students

- Developed a Gas Station and Novel Drugs Toolkit
- Collaborated with the Missouri Professional Development System to produce a new poison prevention training program for childcare workers for the state of Missouri
- Trained nearly 200 Parents as Teachers Educators to take poison prevention into the homes of children ages 0-5 years
- Provided more than 21,000 Poison Help magnets and Baby Safe cards to new parents throughout the state

Professional education

We open doors—and opportunities—to world-class education to professionals in Missouri, the United States, and beyond.

The Missouri Poison Center continued to host an international training class series for 32 American and Canadian poison centers. Since opening the enrollment to all centers in 2024, attendance has nearly doubled to 136 attendees.

Additional professional education included:

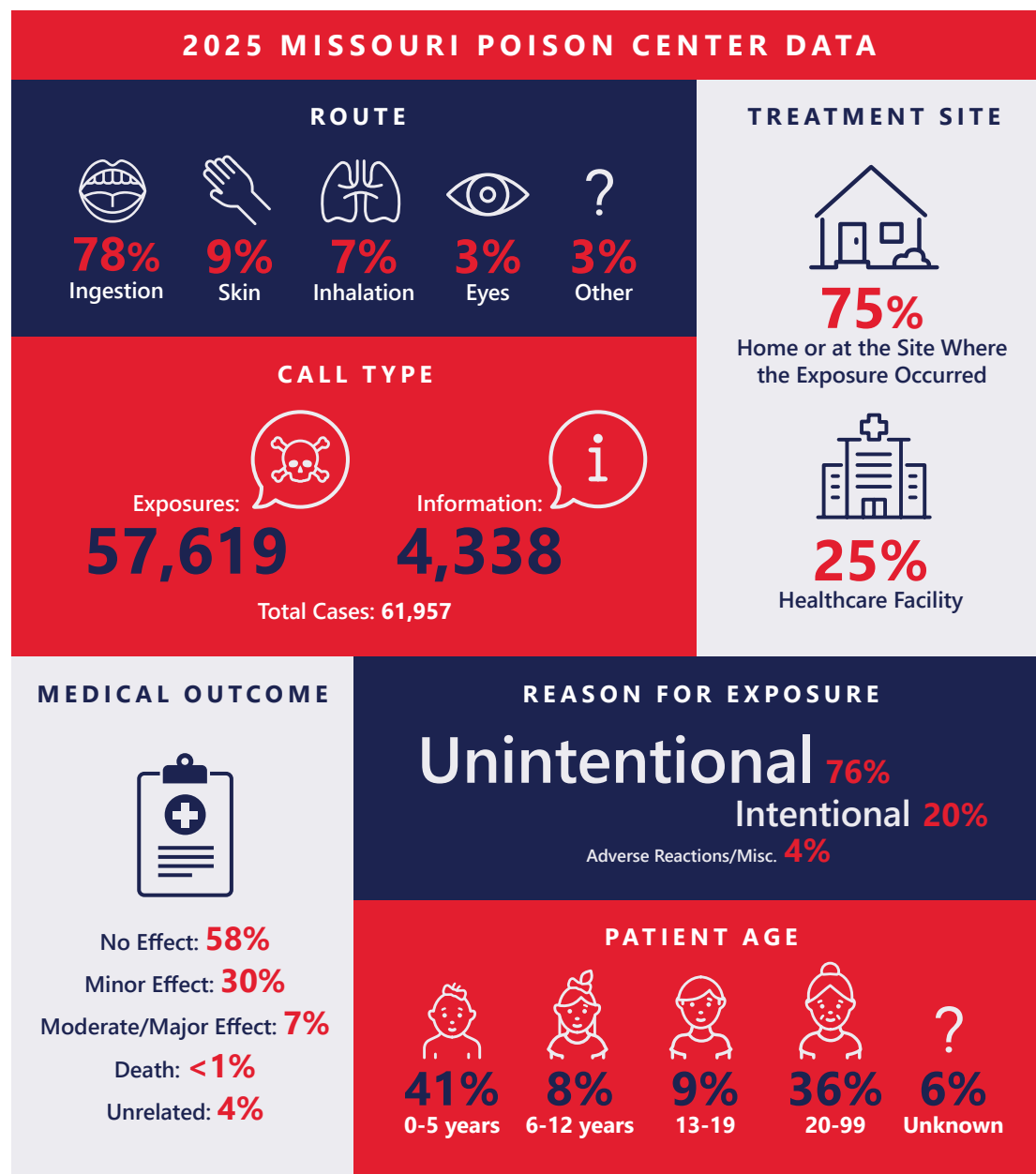
- Site host for the Toxicology Fellowship program
- Regional Lunch and Learn speaking engagement about the Top 10 Substances Poison Centers Encounter for the SSM Health Medical Group
- Perspectives article for Missouri Medicine journal discussing marijuana/cannabis

- Educational programs and presentations for providers, fellows, first-responders, and pharmacy professionals throughout Missouri

TOP 10 SUBSTANCES INVOLVED IN EXPOSURE

1. Pain Relievers (7,787)
2. Household Cleaning Substances (4,626)
3. Antidepressants (4,206)
4. Cardiovascular Medications (4,075)
5. Antihistamines (4,004)
6. Cosmetics and Personal Care (3,292)
7. Mental Health Medications* (3,127)
8. Pesticides (2,796)
9. Foreign Bodies and Toys (2,696)
10. Stimulants and Street Drugs (2,470)

*Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics



Thank you for helping us help Missouri.

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ANSWERING THE CALL.

We answer all poison-related concerns, whether or not there's an emergency, in 150 languages and for the hearing impaired at 1-800-222-1222.