

2025 Blue Ridge Poison Center Service Area

The Blue Ridge Poison Center (BRPC) is located in Charlottesville, VA. We are affiliated with University of Virginia Health and certified by Americas' Poison Centers.

The BRPC provides free, confidential advice in treating known or suspected exposures to harmful substances through our 24-hour Poison Help Line: **1-800-222-1222**.

In 2025, the BRPC handled more than 25,000 calls:

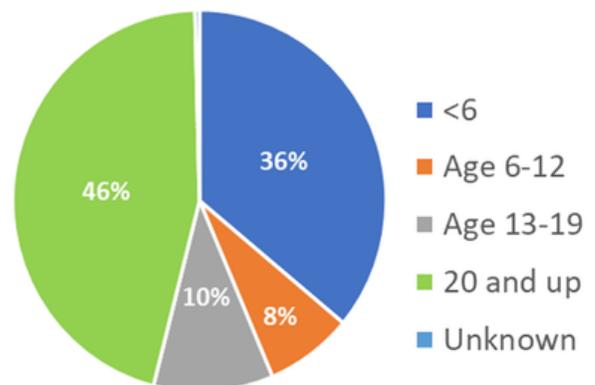
- Most calls (**68%**) were about *unintentional* exposures.
- Some calls (**19%**) were about *intentional* exposures, including cases of suspected suicide or substance misuse.
- Nearly **2 out of every 10** calls was a *therapeutic error*. These are unintentional mistakes with medicine.
- We helped over **3,300** callers with administrative or non-emergency questions.
- **32%** of calls came from healthcare providers requesting advice about their own patients.

<i>Unintentional Exposures</i>	<i>Number</i>
General	10,793
Environmental	255
Occupational	355
Therapeutic error	4,527
Misuse	346
Bite / sting	343
Food poisoning	103
Unknown	195
TOTAL UNINT.	16,917
<i>Intentional Exposures</i>	
Suspected suicide	3,189
Misuse	586
Abuse	716
Unknown	278
TOTAL INT.	4,769
Information calls	2,706
Other	677
TOTAL: ALL	25,069

What Ages Were Affected by Poisoning?

Children under age 6 were responsible for **36%** of all exposure calls. Young children cannot tell the difference between what is safe and dangerous. They may handle or swallow substances which can harm them, especially when those substances look or smell like familiar treats. Adults may leave these substances in places where children can see and easily reach.

The largest number of cases (**46%**) was about adults age 20 and up. Many of these cases were the result of medicine mistakes or overdoses.



What Substances Were Involved?

Top Ten Substance Categories	Number
Analgesics	3,179
Antidepressants	2,110
Cardiovascular drugs	1,747
Antihistamines	1,669
Cleaning substances (household)	1,520
Sedatives, hypnotics, antipsychotics	1,390
Cosmetics/personal care products	1,202
Stimulants and street drugs	1,008
Alcohols	1,005
Foreign bodies, toys, miscellaneous	892

Most calls in 2025 were about substances commonly found in and around our homes, including cleaning products, personal care products (such as mouthwash, cosmetics, and skin creams), and medicines.

Medicine poisoning happens when someone takes too much, takes the wrong product, or takes the wrong combination of products.

The **number one source of poisoning** exposures for all ages was *analgesics*, or pain relievers, including prescription and over-the-counter products.

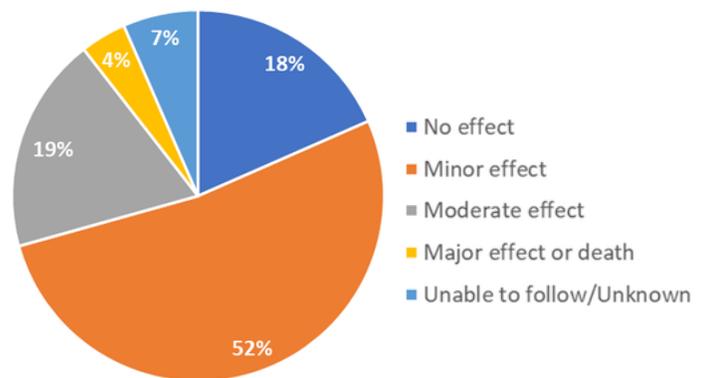
Other substances that were leading sources of exposures in 2025 include automotive products, pesticides, plants, cannabis (marijuana), nicotine and tobacco products, and illicit drugs. We also handled calls about bites or stings from venomous snakes, spiders, bees, and more.

Medical Outcomes

With guidance from our experts, **7 out of every 10** callers experienced no or minor health effects as a result of their exposure.

Helping callers treat their exposure on site saves time, worry, and money by preventing unnecessary trips to a healthcare facility.

Nineteen percent of callers experienced moderate health effects--some requiring medical care. In 2025, 11% of cases resulted in major health effects or death.



Education and Outreach

In 2025, the BRPC distributed over 180,000 free materials; published 4 issues of our newsletter The Antidote; developed Resource Toolkits for teachers, parents, and community leaders; participated in health fairs; gave presentations; and maintained a robust website and social media presence.

BRPC Clinicians taught healthcare professionals and students through the monthly newsletter ToxTalks; the UVA School of Medicine's Medical Toxicology Rotation; and the 2-year Fellowship program.