



**March 16-22, 2025, is National Poison Prevention Week**  
**“When the Unexpected Happens, Poison Help is Here for You”**

Arizona’s hospitals recorded 11,505 emergency department visits and 4,731 hospital admissions for poisonings in 2023 (year for most recent data to ADHS). In observance of Poison Prevention Week, this message provides useful information on poison center calls, preventing poison exposures, first aid, and helpful resources and contacts.

**2023 AZ POISONING INCIDENTS (ADHS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT & INPATIENT DISCHARGE DATA):**

Table 1. 2023 ED Visits for Poisonings as First Diagnosis				
Age Group	Counts		%	
	Poisoning	All Dx	Poisonings	All Dx
0-4 Yrs	819	185117	7.1%	7.31%
5-9 Yrs	174	111944	1.5%	4.42%
10-14 Yrs	457	91050	4.0%	3.59%
15-19 Yrs	1525	138253	13.3%	5.46%
20-44 Yrs	5608	869608	48.7%	34.32%
45-64 Yrs	1952	575825	17.0%	22.72%
≥ 65 Yrs	963	561788	8.4%	22.17%
Unk Yrs	7	334	0.1%	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>2,533,919</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2. 2023 Hospital Discharges for Poisonings as First Diagnosis				
Age Group	Counts		%	
	Poisoning	All Dx	Poisonings	All Dx
0-4 Yrs	113	13386	2.4%	1.9%
5-9 Yrs	12	5072	0.3%	0.7%
10-14 Yrs	137	9691	2.9%	1.4%
15-19 Yrs	498	19933	10.5%	2.9%
20-44 Yrs	1954	191874	41.3%	27.7%
45-64 Yrs	1177	158900	24.9%	23.0%
≥ 65 Yrs	836	293278	17.7%	42.4%
Unk Yrs	4	29	0.1%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>692,163</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2024 POISON CENTER CALL STATISTICS:**

There are two designated Poison and Drug Information Centers serving the state of Arizona. Banner Poison & Drug Information Center (serving Maricopa County) and the Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center (serving all other counties). Both centers provide 24/7 free and confidential poison control and medication information to the public and healthcare professionals.

*Call (800) 222-1222 from any location to reach the poison center nearest you.*

In 2024, a total of 70,806 Calls for assistance were received in Arizona by poison control centers, of which 58,306 were for suspected poison exposures and 12,500 for information and other assistance. Of these, 2,584 calls were received from 911/Fire & EMS providers, with 1,784 for suspected poison exposures and 800 for information either through the Banner Poison Center/Phoenix Fire Department Mobile Computer Terminal (MCT) system or information calls.

**Top 5 Substances (All Calls)**

Top 5 Substance All Calls		
Exposure	Total Cases	% Cases
Scorpion Stings	4,260	7%
Ethanol (Beverages)	2,017	3%
Unknown Substance	1,935	3%
Ibuprofen	1,731	3%
Non-prescription Fentanyl	1,442	2%

Top 5 Substance from EMS Provider Calls		
Exposure	Total Cases	% Cases
Scorpion Stings	286	15%
Ethanol (Beverages)	76	4%
Atypical Antipsychotic	62	3%
Benzodiazepines	60	3%
Ibuprofen	58	3%

## All Calls by Age and All Calls by Medical Outcomes

All Arizona Age Range		
Age Range	Cases	% Cases
< 1 Year	2,179	4%
1 Year	5,454	9%
2 Years	5,335	9%
3 Years	2,841	5%
4 Years	1,512	3%
5 Years	982	2%
Unknown ≤ 5 Years	72	0%
Child 6-12 Years	3,788	6%
Teen 13-19 Years	4,407	8%
Unknown Child (≤ 19)	116	0%
20-29 Years	6,284	11%
30-39 Years	6,145	11%
40-49 Year	4,159	7%
50-59 Years	3,618	6%
60-69 Years	3,392	6%
70-79 Years	2,444	4%
80-89 Years	1,154	2%
≥ 90 Years	192	0%
Unknown Adult (≥ 20)	3,067	5%
Unknown Age	1,165	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,306</b>	<b>100%</b>

All Arizona Cases by Medical Outcomes		
Medical Outcome	Cases	% Cases
Confirmed Non-Exposure	148	%
Death	51	0.25%
Death, Indirect Report	833	0.09%
Major Effect	696	1.43%
Minor Effect	13,915	1.19%
Moderate Effect	2,957	23.87%
No Effect	11,877	5.07%
Not Followed, judged as nontoxic exposure	2,916	20.37%
Not Followed, minimal clinical effects possible	20,828	5.00%
Not Specified	4	35.72%
Unable to Follow, judged as potentially toxic exposure	2,212	0.01%
Unrelated Effect, exposure probably not responsible for effect(s)	1,869	3.79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,306</b>	<b>100%</b>

### HOW YOU CAN PREVENT POISON EXPOSURES:

#### At Home:

- [Properly dispose](#) of unused or expired medications
- Properly dispose of unused or expired household cleaning products
- Keep cleaning products and chemicals in their original containers
- Keep harmful substances and medications out of reach of toddlers and young children
- Install child-proof cabinet door and drawer locks
- Wear protective gloves when handling cleaning products
- Maintain proper ventilation when working with products
- Avoid mixing cleaning products or other chemicals unless directed to do so by product directions for use
- Carry nasal spray naloxone for at-risk home circumstances

#### At Work:

- Don't store certain chemicals in the same location (list of storage strategies/hazards)
- Always keep chemicals in original containers with proper labeling
- Use personal protective devices and clothing when working with and around potentially toxic substances
- Maintain current MSDS sheets for substance stored or used at the worksite and during transportation
- Carry nasal spray naloxone for at-risk work circumstances

#### Outdoors:

- Wear weather-appropriated clothing to protect from skin exposure to toxic plants and insect bites/stings
- Watch where hands and feet are placed to avoid a bite or sting
- Apply age-appropriate insect repellants
- Learn about and avoid dangerous plants
- Bring a first aid kit
- Carry epi-pens prescribed by a physician for emergency allergic reactions
- Carry plenty of water
- Carry nasal spray naloxone for at-risk outdoor circumstances

### DON'T FORGET OUR PETS:

Arizona's Poison Centers received 1,389 calls in 2024 from pet owners regarding their pets' suspected poison exposures.

### WHAT TO DO FOR SUSPECTED POISON EXPOSURES:

#### Immediate Steps

- Ensure the area is safe to enter/approach
- Move the person to a safe location
- Assess ABCs
- Call 911

#### First Aid

- Ingestion
- Dermal Exposure
- Inhalation

- Suspected Opioid Overdose
- Call 911
- Call the Poison Control Center

#### **THE EMS FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM SUPPORTS POISON PREVENTION WEEK**

Poisoning in children is most common during the toddler and teenage years. Toddlers (1 to 3 years) are particularly vulnerable for several reasons:

- Toddlers are attracted to the bright colors of agents or containers, making dangerous substances more enticing.
- Toddlers frequently engage in hand-to-mouth behavior while exploring their surroundings ([Wilson et al., 2021](#)).

While most poisonings in the toddler and teenage years involve small amounts of toxic substances, often resulting in minimal or no harm, several household items can be extremely dangerous in small quantities, such as:

- Vicks VapoRub™ and similar products,
- Listerine®,
- Drugs, e.g., Tricyclic antidepressants, Calcium channel blockers, Oral hypoglycemics, narcotics.

#### **THE ADHS OFFICE OF INJURY AND VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUPPORTS POISON PREVENTION WEEK**

The Office of Injury and Violence Prevention, along with the Office of Children's Health, supports a full-time staff person focused on injury prevention through a statewide Injury Prevention Advisory Council and Safe Kids Arizona.

Today, parents need to protect their children from more than just poisonous household products. Young people may be exposed to prescription drugs, illicit drugs, legal but harmful drugs like marijuana, psychedelics, and alcohol. Fortunately there are community coalitions across the state that provide prevention resources, training, and support to parents, families, and educators. Find a community coalition near you [here](#).

Preventing children and teens from misusing prescription drugs is more important than ever with emerging threats from the presence of fentanyl in the illicit drugs. Opioid poisoning (overdoses) don't have to be fatal. Naloxone (Narcan®) can reverse opioid overdoses; is easy to administer, and available free of charge across the state and over the counter in drugstores. ADHS supports efforts focused on opioid poisoning/overdose prevention. Opioid overdoses are tracked and reported on the [data dashboard](#), and prevention and [community resources](#) are available on our website.

Learn More:

- [About Naloxone and Preventing Overdose Deaths](#)
- [The Dangers of Fentanyl](#)
- [About Cannabis \(Marijuana\) Poisoning](#)
- [Healthy Children Podcast: How to Prevent Kids and Teens from Misusing Prescription Drugs](#)

#### **AZ POISON & DRUG INFORMATION CENTER EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:**

- Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center 800-222-1222
- Banner Poison & Drug Information Center (Maricopa County) 800-222-1222; 602-253-3334
- ADHS Opioid Assistance and Referral Line (OAR) Line 888-688-4222

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

- [Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center](#)
- [Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center 2024 Annual Report](#)
- [Banner Poison & Drug Information Center](#)
- [ADHS Opioid Assistance & Referral \(OAR\) Line](#)

#### **Educational Resources: Poison Information**

- Plants
- Medications
- Bites and Stings
- Chemicals
- Request a Poison Prevention Presentation
- Request poison prevention educational materials

Thank you,

MolinaHealthcare of Arizona Provider Network Team