

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**MANY  
POISONS.**

Don't let poisons  
leave you puzzled.

**1-800-222-1222**

**ONE  
NUMBER.**

Wisconsin Poison Center, located in Milwaukee, is a valuable hotline resource serving the entire state of Wisconsin. Phone lines are open 24 hours/day and calls are answered by nationally poison-certified nurses and pharmacists.

Statistics from 2022 demonstrate the Poison Center's mission to consistently deliver comprehensive information to callers about any potential poison or drug.

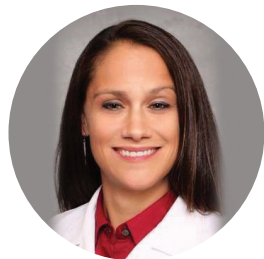
## Shining a light on a hidden danger in SE Wisconsin

Lead poisoning is an invisible threat in communities with older homes and poses the most danger to young children whose brains are still developing.

Clinical and Community Solutions to Lead-Free Children is a collaborative project with a goal to identify children in SE Wisconsin with elevated blood lead levels and provide families with resources to get the help they need. The collaboration is made up of several health care organizations, including the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), the Milwaukee Health Department (MKE Health Dept.), Children's Wisconsin (CW) and the Wisconsin Poison Center (WPC). It also includes several grassroots organizations that will help to educate local communities regarding lead poisoning, its sources and how to get tested.

Still in its infancy, the project has been successful at identifying all of the organizations that are essential for its success. These stakeholders have begun regular meetings and conversations.

Dr. Jillian Theobald, medical director of the new Medical



Toxicology Clinic at CW and associate medical director of the WPC, has updated the lead treatment guidelines used by CW physicians throughout the organization. Poison Center staff have helped to develop materials that can be used to educate parents and guardians of lead-poisoned children, family physicians and landlords.

Dr. Theobald has seen several lead-poisoned children at the clinic. These children are referred to the clinic by the MKE Health Dept. or a family physician. WPC staff have created

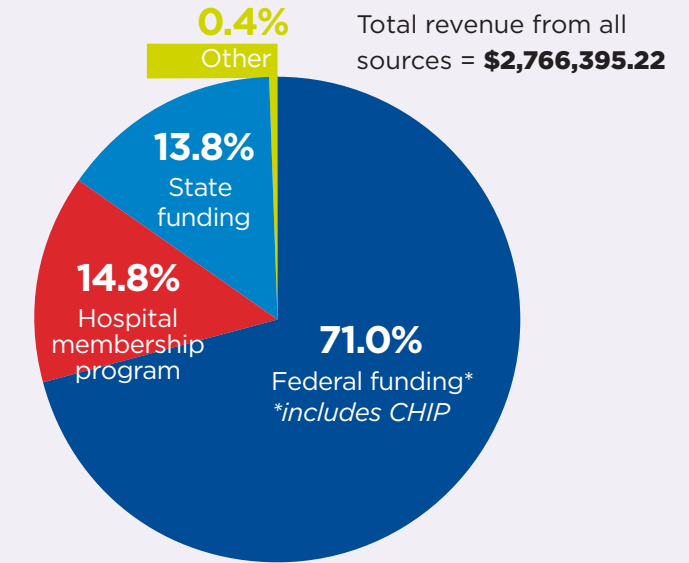
a new childhood lead poisoning flyer that has been added to their public website: [wisconsinpoison.org/Poison-Center1/PDF/WPC-brochure-Draft-5-FINAL-w-tagline.pdf](https://wisconsinpoison.org/Poison-Center1/PDF/WPC-brochure-Draft-5-FINAL-w-tagline.pdf)

Channels of communication between the health department, poison center and hospital staff have been standardized. Processes to streamline clinic scheduling and treatment have been developed and are undergoing a continuous improvement cycle. Next steps will include working with community-based educators to help explain the importance of lead testing for anyone living in a home built before 1978, using information created and vetted by health care professionals.

If you have questions regarding lead poisoning, lead testing or want to know more about this project, please contact the WPC through the website [wisconsinpoison.org](https://wisconsinpoison.org).



## TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2022



## Hospital membership program update

This program allows patient providers from all hospitals throughout the state of Wisconsin an opportunity to collaborate with toxicologists to ensure the most current treatment and best outcomes for the poisoned or drug-overdosed patient. In exchange for a membership fee, all member facilities gain 24/7/365 access to board-certified toxicologists, as well as toxicology-trained nurses and pharmacists. The program is in its eleventh year, and over 99 percent of Wisconsin hospitals chose to be members in 2022.



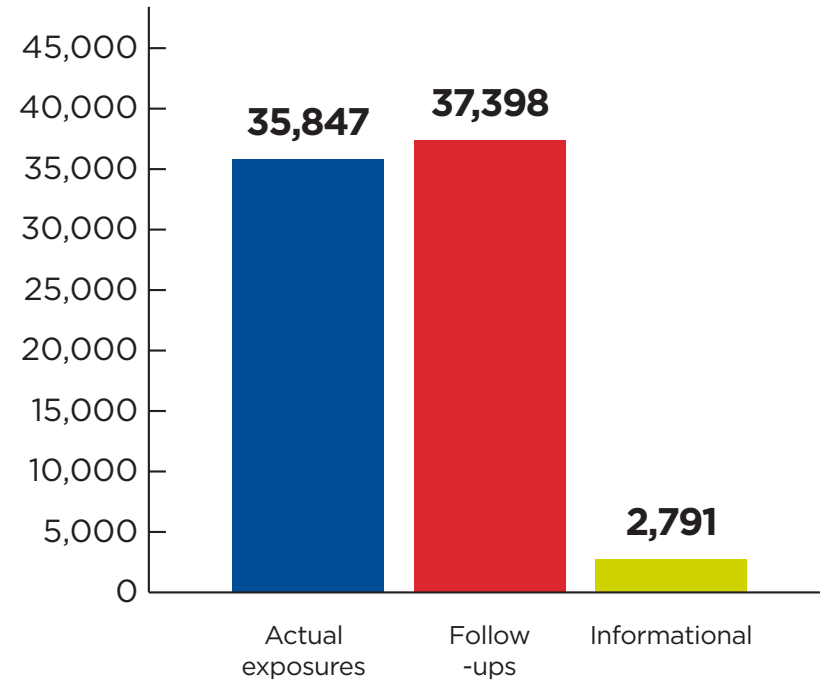
## Poison Center case volumes in 2022

Wisconsin Poison Center (WPC) helped manage 35,851 exposure and confirmed non-exposure cases in 2022. The WPC also received 2,791 requests for information when there was no poison exposure. However, these numbers only tell half the story.

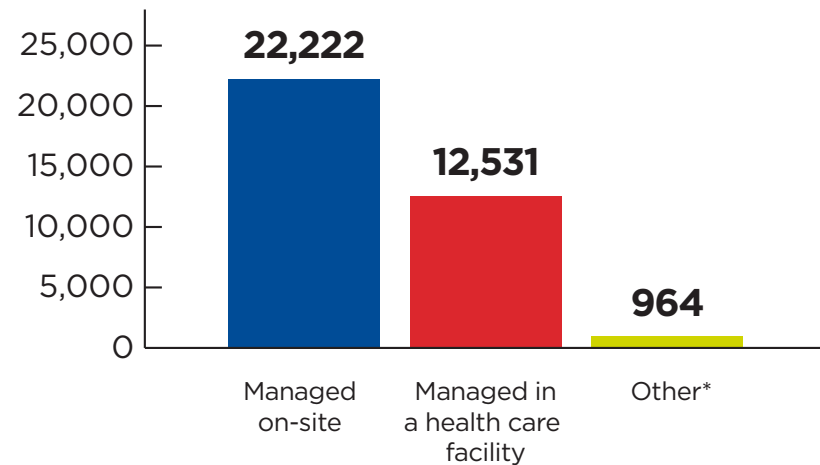
Besides receiving an average of 106 new cases per day, toxicology-trained nurses and pharmacists also call back to followup on exposed patients to ensure safety and provide the highest quality of care. Hospital patients throughout the state are monitored an average of twice a day until they are discharged from the hospital. This allows for continuity of care and adjustment of treatment recommendations if necessary.

Patients calling from home are also called back depending on potential symptoms and the product to which they were exposed.

### 2022 CALL/CASE VOLUMES



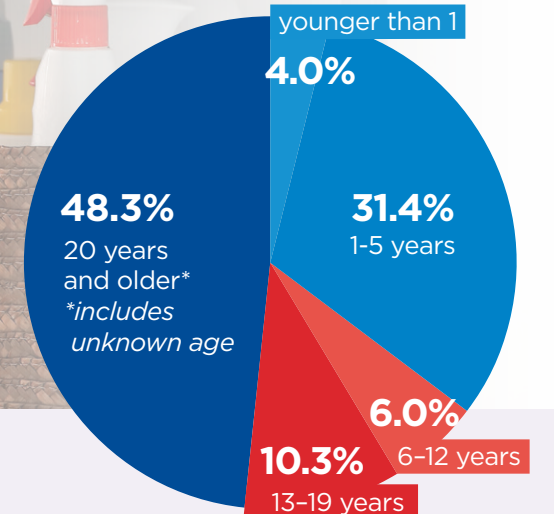
### 2022 NUMBER OF CASES/TREATMENT SITE



\* Other (referred to family physician) unknown, patient refused referral



### 2022 AGE OF EXPOSED PATIENT



### TOP 10 SUBSTANCES INVOLVED IN POISONINGS IN 2022

#### Age 5 and younger

1. Personal care products
2. Pain medications
3. Household cleaning products
4. Dietary supplements
5. Foreign bodies/toys
6. Vitamins
7. Plants
8. Antihistamines
9. Topical preparations (creams and lotions)
10. Pesticides

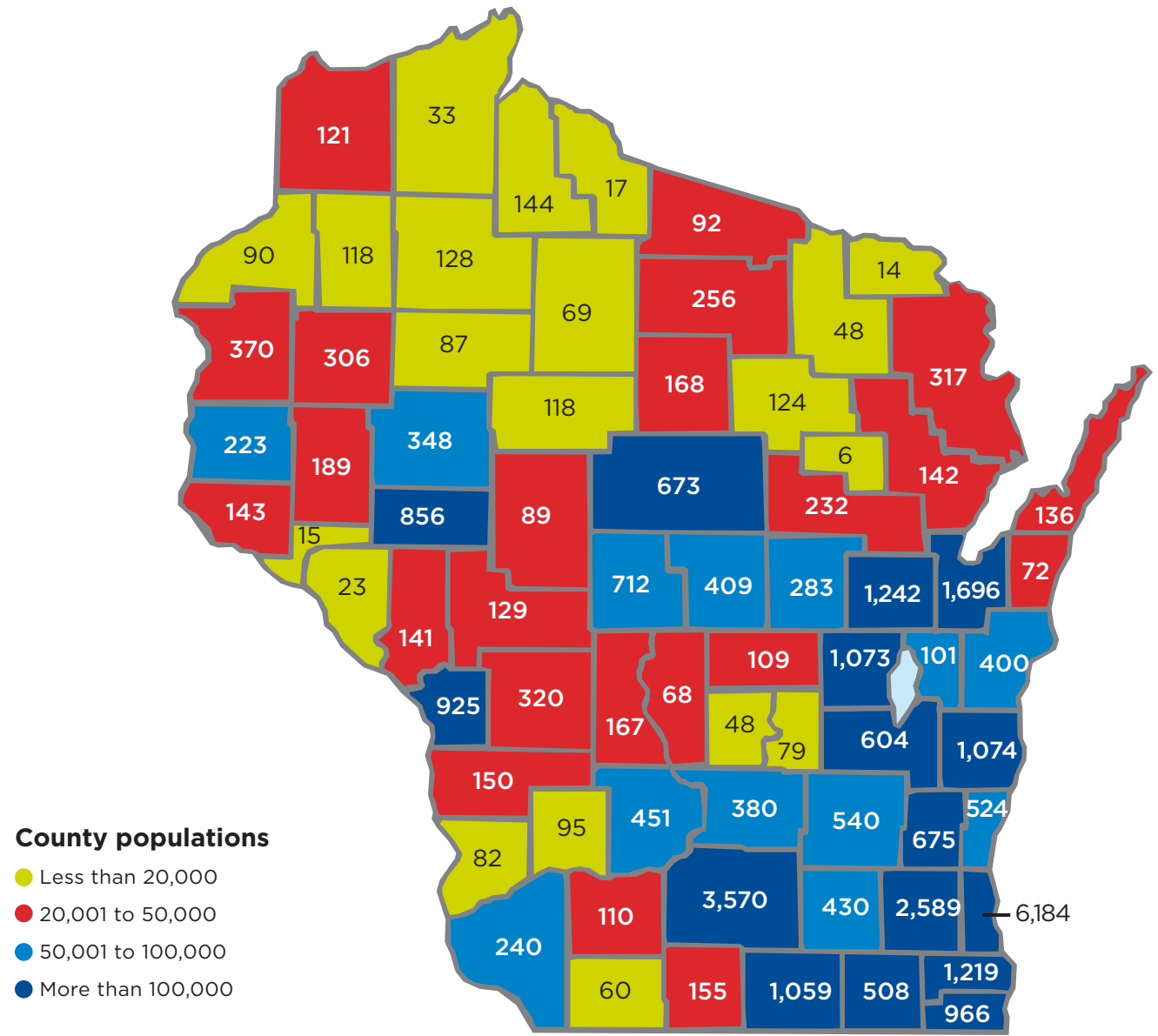
#### Age 6 to 19

1. Pain medications
2. Antidepressants
3. Antihistamines
4. Street drugs/stimulants
5. Sedatives/antipsychotics
6. Cardiovascular medications
7. Personal care products
8. Household cleaning products
9. Anticonvulsants
10. Dietary supplements

#### Age 20 and older

1. Pain medications
2. Antidepressants
3. Cardiovascular medications
4. Sedative hypnotics/antipsychotics
5. Alcohols
6. Household cleaning products
7. Anticonvulsants
8. Antihistamines
9. Hormones (includes insulin) and hormone-blocking agents
10. Personal care products

**2022 NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED BY COUNTY**



Since 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports the No. 1 cause of injury deaths for adults ages 25-64 as unintentional poisoning. Health care facilities are treating increasing numbers of severely overdosed patients.

**10 LEADING CAUSES OF INJURY DEATHS, UNITED STATES - 2020**

RANK	AGE GROUPS										All Ages
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Unintentional Suffocation 1,024	Unintentional Drowning 423	Unintentional MV Traffic 319	Unintentional MV Traffic 476	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,741	Unintentional Poisoning 20,938	Unintentional Poisoning 21,943	Unintentional Poisoning 18,078	Unintentional Poisoning 15,030	Unintentional Fall 36,508	Unintentional Poisoning 87,404
2	Homicide Unspecified 104	Unintentional MV Traffic 284	Unintentional Drowning 115	Suicide Suffocation 312	Unintentional Poisoning 6,664	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,929	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,031	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,421	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,942	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,480	Unintentional Fall 42,114
3	Unintentional MV Traffic 72	Unintentional Suffocation 118	Homicide Firearm 91	Suicide Firearm 224	Homicide Firearm 5,966	Homicide Firearm 6,158	Homicide Firearm 3,540	Suicide Firearm 3,418	Suicide Firearm 3,889	Suicide Firearm 6,472	Unintentional MV Traffic 40,698
4	Homicide, Other Spec., classifiable 68	Homicide Unspecified 108	Unintentional Fire/burn 60	Homicide Firearm 218	Suicide Firearm 3,173	Suicide Firearm 3,901	Suicide Firearm 3,215	Suicide Suffocation 2,086	Unintentional Fall 3,140	Unintentional Unspecified 4,839	Suicide Firearm 24,292
5	Undetermined Suffocation 38	Homicide Firearm 75	Unintentional Suffocation 38	Unintentional Drowning 82	Suicide Suffocation 1,914	Suicide Suffocation 3,063	Suicide Suffocation 2,597	Homicide Firearm 1,783	Suicide Suffocation 1,493	Unintentional Poisoning 4,618	Homicide Firearm 19,384
6	Unintentional Drowning 34	Unintentional Fire/burn 75	Unintentional Other Land Transport 33	Unintentional Other Land Transport 52	Unintentional Drowning 546	Undetermined Poisoning 869	Undetermined Poisoning 903	Unintentional Fall 1,282	Suicide Poisoning 1,165	Unintentional Suffocation 3,723	Suicide Suffocation 12,495
7	Undetermined Poisoning 33	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 54	Homicide Unspecified 27	Unintentional Poisoning 52	Suicide Poisoning 476	Suicide Poisoning 789	Suicide Poisoning 844	Suicide Poisoning 1,140	Homicide Firearm 992	Adverse Effects 3,560	Unintentional Suffocation 6,768
8	Homicide Suffocation 25	Homicide Other Spec., classifiable 45	Unintentional Firearm 22	Unintentional Fire/burn 45	Homicide Cut/pierce 283	Unintentional Drowning 557	Unintentional Fall 625	Undetermined Poisoning 822	Adverse Effects 938	Unintentional Fire/burn 1,385	Unintentional Unspecified 6,265
9	Undetermined Unspecified 22	Unintentional Natural/Environment 43	Suicide Suffocation 18	Suicide Poisoning 33	Undetermined Poisoning 241	Homicide Cut/Pierce 521	Unintentional Drowning 509	Unintentional Drowning 508	Unintentional Suffocation 827	Suicide Poisoning 1,080	Suicide Poisoning 5,528
10	Two Tied 17	Unintentional Firearm 40	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 18	Unintentional Suffocation 33	Unintentional Other Land Transport 184	Unintentional Fall 359	Homicide Cut/pierce 450	Adverse Effects 451	Undetermined Poisoning 738	Suicide Suffocation 1,012	Adverse Effects 5,361

**Poisoning deaths**

Data source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System. Produced by: Office of Statistics and Programming, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™.

# Wisconsin Poison Center

PO Box 1997  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1997  
1-800-222-1222  
**[wisconsinpoison.org](http://wisconsinpoison.org)**

In cooperation with the funding of Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services – Programs & Services.

This report is supported by funds received through grant #H4BH515507 awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Health Resources and Services Administration, Division of Healthcare Preparedness, Healthcare Systems Bureau.