

The National Impact of the U.S. Poison Centers

The Poison Center Network provides **\$3.1 billion** in healthcare savings and benefits

The report “*Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments*,” is a result of an independent assessment by RAND to analyze the monetary and societal value of the Poison Center Network. Overall, the report confirms the essential role Poison Centers play in 1) strengthening the nation’s response to poisons and toxic emergencies, 2) providing accessible, expert toxicology guidance across the U.S. and its territories, 3) providing real-time public health surveillance, and 4) offering critical prevention and education services to save lives.

The Benefits Provided by U.S. Poison Centers

- Every \$1 spent by Poison Centers on services generates an estimated **\$16.77 in benefits**. The most widely recognized cost-saving benefits include avoidable medical utilization, reduced length of hospital stay, mortality risk reduction, and enhanced national public health surveillance.
- America’s Poison Centers estimates that federally appropriated funds to Poison Centers save **\$450 million annually** in health care costs, yet over the last decade federal and some state funding have been cut or not adjusted for inflation.
- Poison Centers also provide other more difficult to measure benefits such as **prevention**, enhanced emergency **preparedness, trusted expertise**, and supporting **peace of mind for the public**.

The Expanding Role of Poison Centers

- Poison Centers have significantly modernized over the last decade, with many now offering live text and online chat to better meet the changing needs of the public.
- Many Poison Centers have expanded their services to include telehealth delivery, managing a hotline for specialized areas (e.g., rabies or COVID-19 hotline), or product surveillance.
- Poison Centers have also been asked to take on a more critical role in emergency preparedness and disaster response.

Poison Center Funding

Funding for Poison Centers from federal, state, and private sources has **decreased by 8%** from 2011 to 2024.

Amid rising healthcare costs, these funding cuts are an **increasing threat** to the ability of Poison Centers to provide life-saving services and essential 24/7 coverage.

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“I don’t think I’ve ever had a conversation that wasn’t helpful in some way. I don’t know what I would do if they weren’t available, I would frankly be scared.” Physician, quote from RAND study

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To learn more and read the full report, visit: PoisonCenters.org/National-Impact-Study

About America’s Poison Centers

America’s Poison Centers® represents the 53 accredited Poison Centers across the country. We are united in our cause to prevent poison-related health emergencies in America. Through the national Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) and PoisonHelp.org our member centers provide all Americans expert advice. We also maintain the National Poison Data System® (NPDS), our nation’s only near real-time poisoning data surveillance system, integrating the latest information from across Poison Centers.