

# 2016 Annual Report



Children's  
of Alabama®



REGIONAL  
**Poison**  
CONTROL CENTER

## About the RPCC

The Regional Poison Control Center (RPCC) has been a long-term commitment of Children's of Alabama to the citizenry of Alabama since 1958. The RPCC was the 14th center established in the United States, during a time period when serious morbidity and mortality were attributed to poison ingestion in children and adults. Since its inception, the center engaged in providing the most accurate and rapid poison information to physicians only in the early years and then to both the professional and general public. The RPCC has provided 24/7/365, toll-free access to lifesaving information since 1978. The RPCC is a fully accredited poison center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Throughout the years of dedicating substantial resources to developing a quality professional staff, quality assurance programs, data surveillance and research, 800 number access and state-of-the-art informational resources, the RPCC serves the entire state of Alabama as the only accredited statewide center by the Alabama Department of Public Health.



**POISON**  
**Help**  
**1-800-222-1222**

In 2016 the RPCC handled

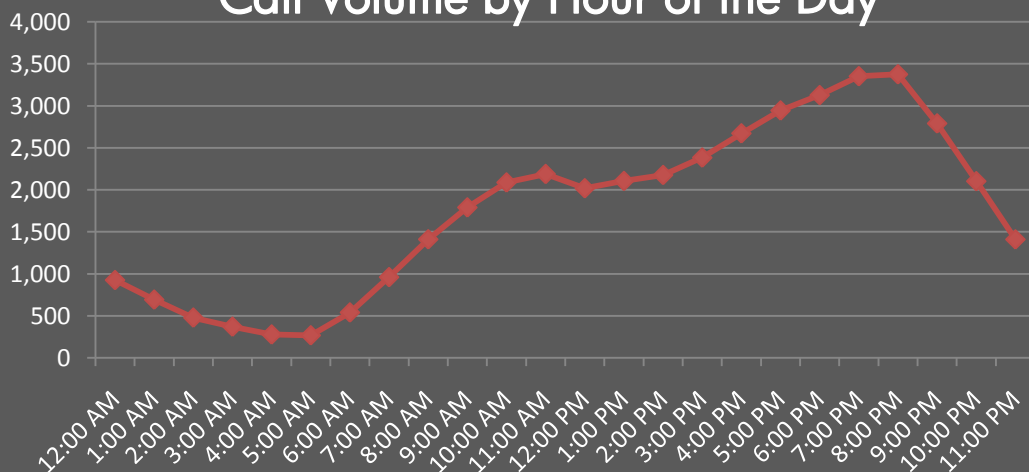
**42,412** calls & made

**56,039** follow-up calls.

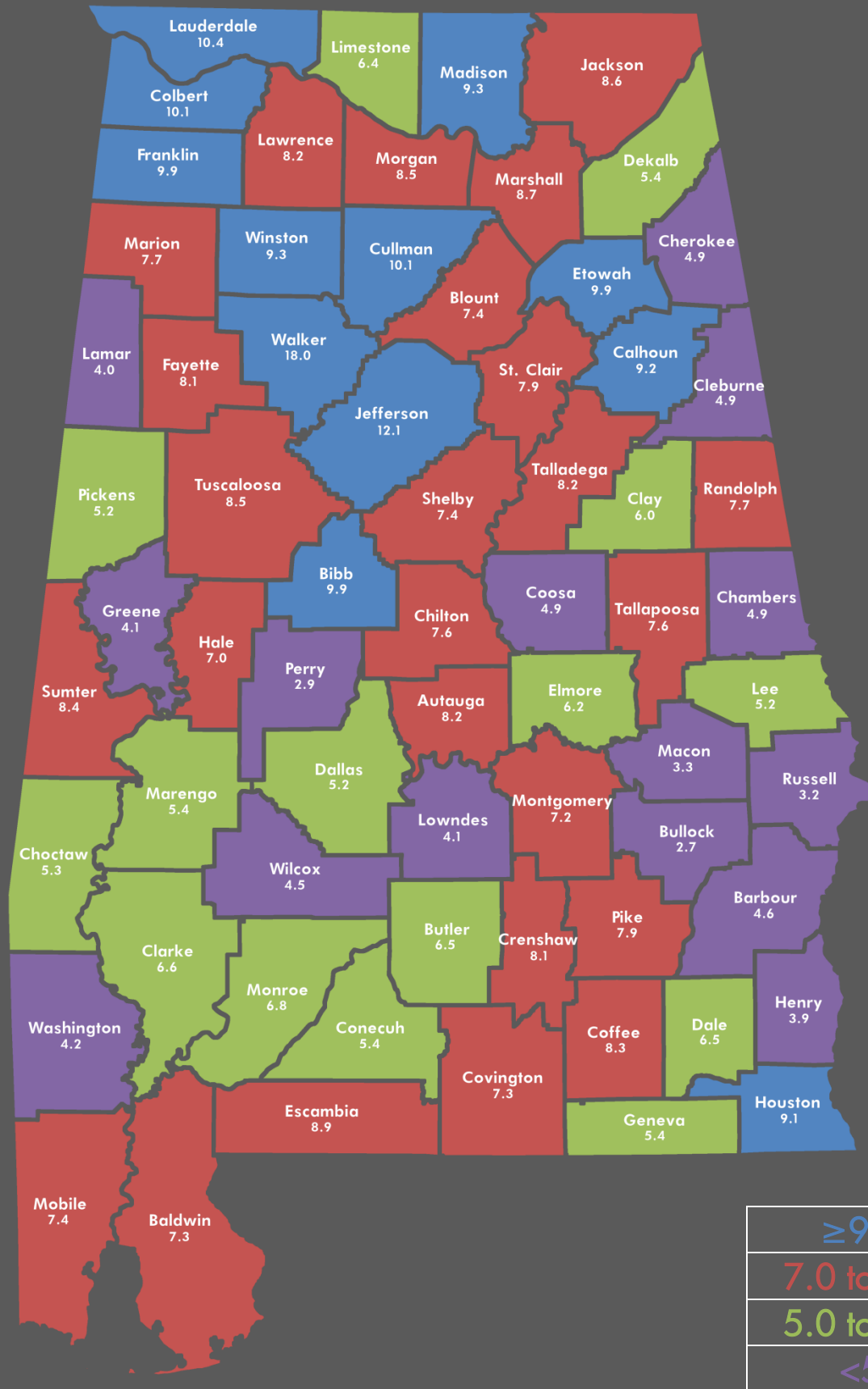
Of those 42,412 calls, 33,069 were poison exposure calls. The other 9,343 calls were information and other calls.

The RPCC monitors 85% of poison exposures in the home. In children <6 years old, almost 90% are monitored at home rather than being referred to an HCF.

Call Volume by Hour of the Day

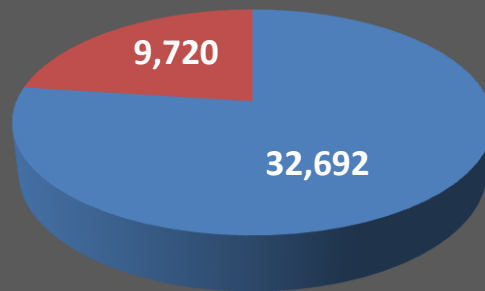


# 2016 Calls per County per 1,000 Residents\*

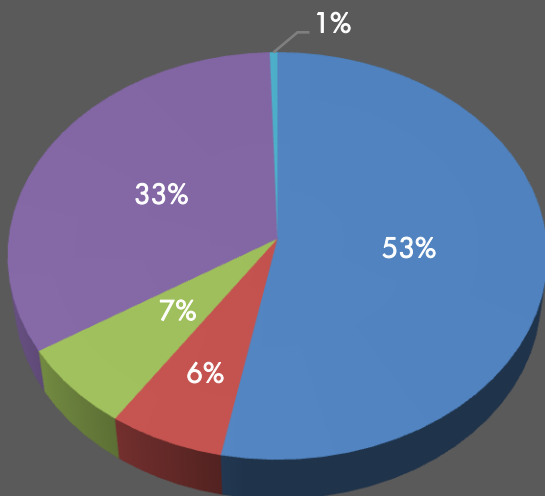


\*calls per county divided by population, multiplied by 1,000

77% of the calls made to the RPCC came from patients at home. The remaining 23% of calls came from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and other health care providers.



The RPCC is available to patients of all ages. In 2016 we handled calls on patients that ranged from 3 days to 105 years old!



Call Volume by Patient Age	
<6 years	17,680
6-12 years	2,130
13-19 years	2,201
>20 years	11,121
Unknown	165

# What types of calls does the RPCC handle?

Mom called because her 4-year-old son opened her oral contraceptive tablets while she was in the shower and ingested an entire row.

Physician called from local emergency department about a 26-year-old patient who presented after being splashed in the face with muriatic acid while at work.

78-year-old female called after she took her morning medications from the pill planner rather than her evening medications, resulting in double doses.

Babysitter called after she accidentally broke a mercury thermometer and wanted to know how to clean up the spill.

Caller who had surgery over a month prior called to ask how to safely dispose of the medications he no longer requires.

## Top 10 Exposures

1. Cleaning substances
2. Cosmetics
3. Topical preparations
4. Antihistamines
5. Other non-medication, toys
6. Insecticides, DEET
7. NSAIDs
8. Antidepressants
9. Analgesics
10. Cough & cold products



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[www.ChildrensAL.org/RPCC](http://www.ChildrensAL.org/RPCC)