

2018 Annual Report



Children's
of Alabama®



REGIONAL
Poison
CONTROL CENTER

About the RPCC

The Regional Poison Control Center (RPCC) celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018. The 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 provides free and confidential lifesaving information 24/7/365. The specialists in poison information (SPIs) who answer the RPCC hotline are nurses and pharmacists trained in toxicology and are nationally certified. The RPCC is a fully accredited poison center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers and serves the entire state of Alabama as the only accredited statewide center as designated by the Alabama Department of Public Health.



POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222



Children's of Alabama, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama Caring Foundation, the Alabama Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration provide operational and educational support for the Regional Poison Control Center.

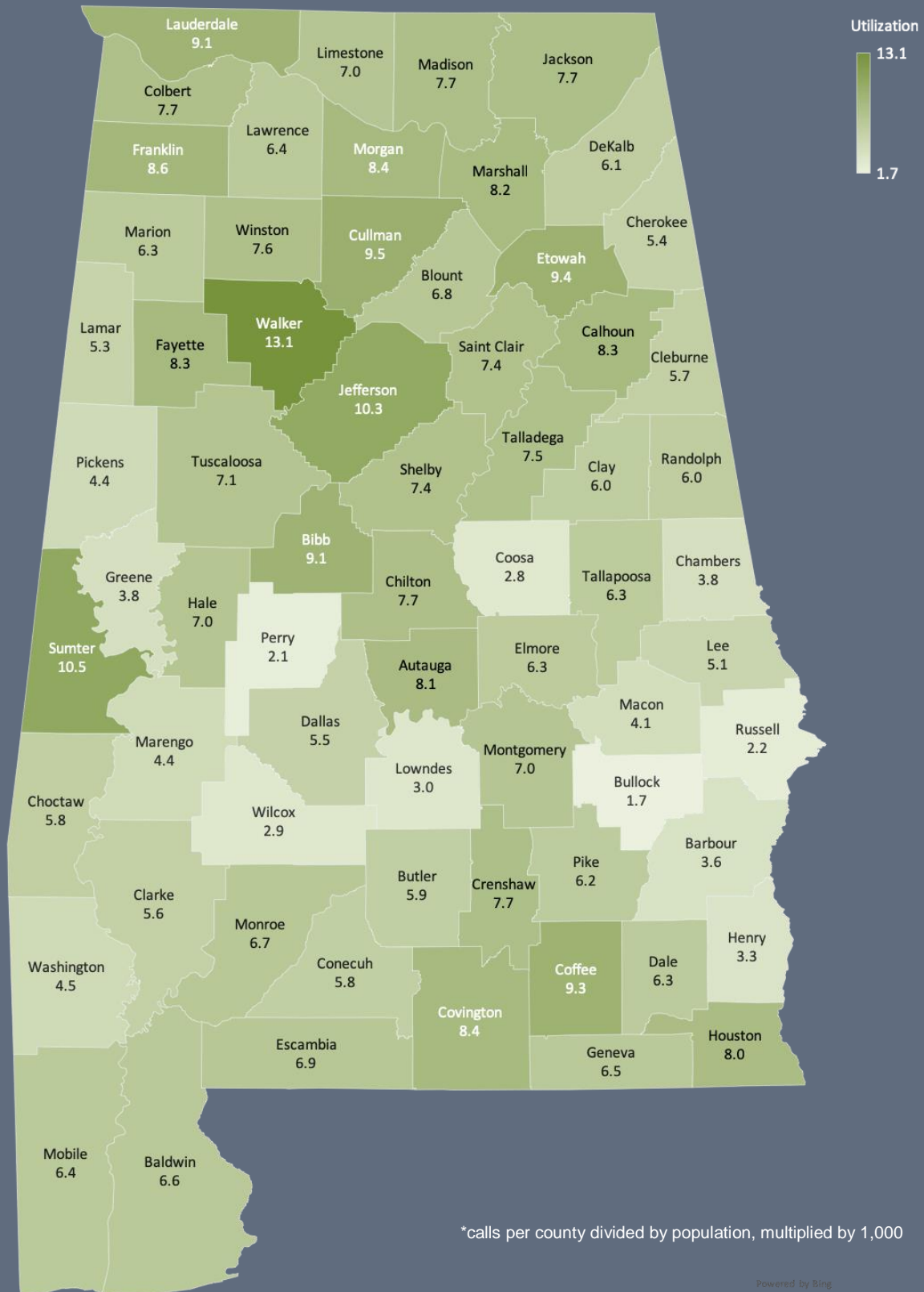
In 2018 the RPCC handled **100,807** calls.

- **43,977** incoming calls resulting in **39,590** cases/charts
 - **33,912** human exposures (multiple calls per case)
 - **4,708** information calls
 - **970** animal exposures
- **56,830** follow-up calls

According to 1,126 responses to the 2018 RPCC Patient Satisfaction Survey, if the poison center was not available **48%** would have called or visited their primary care physician, **28%** would have gone to the emergency department, **14%** would have called 911, and 10% would have called another healthcare provider (HCP), friend, or tried to find information on the internet.

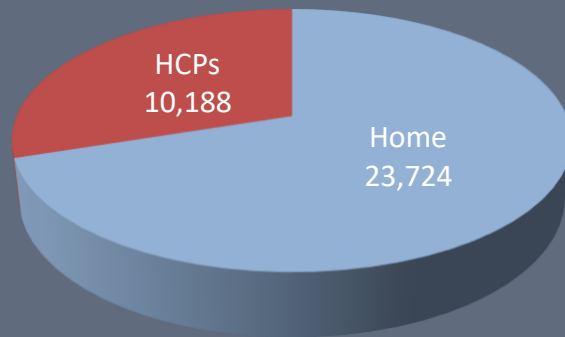
The RPCC monitors 85% of poison exposure calls from home on-site. In children <6 years old, >91% are monitored at home rather than being referred to a healthcare facility.

Calls per County per 1,000 Residents*

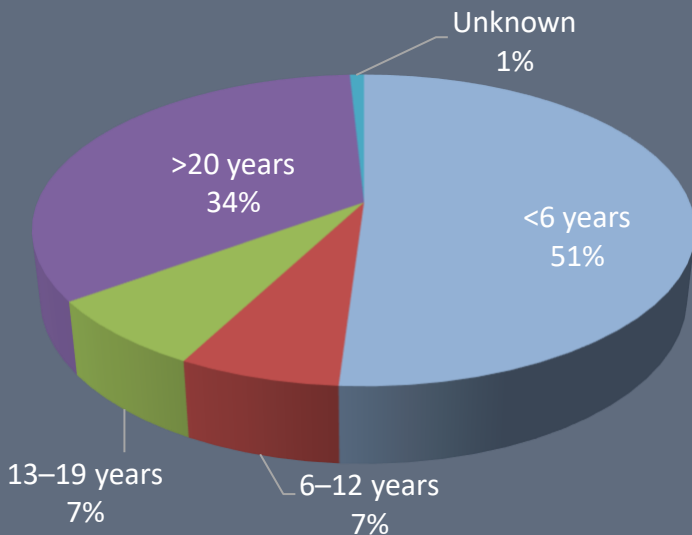


*calls per county divided by population, multiplied by 1,000

70% of the calls made to the RPCC came from patients at home. The remaining **30%** of calls came from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and other health care providers.



The RPCC is available to patients of all ages. In 2018, we handled calls on patients that ranged from 1 day to 99 years old!



Call Volume by Patient Age

<6 years	17,301
6-12 years	2,263
13-19 years	2,463
>20 years	11,609
Unknown	276

The RPCC presented three posters at NACCT 2018 in Chicago, and two articles were published using RPCC data.



The RPCC staff are highly involved in national organizations. The supervisor of the RPCC currently serves as the senior chair of the SPI Committee, which represents all 900 SPIs in the US and Canada. The RPCC Educator is on the Public Education Committee and SPI Committee as chair of the national newsletter, FYI.

The RPCC Educator is a member of the Maternal Child Environmental Health Collaborative Improvement Innovation Network (MCEH CoIIN), which works to increase lead poisoning prevention strategies, and was one of the Alabama representatives at the summit in Washington, D.C.





The RPCC staff participated in 160 hours of community health events and provided public education programs attended by approximately 12,000 Alabamians.

Along with Healthy Child Care of Alabama the RPCC provided 647 training sessions reaching a total of 4,333 Alabamians.

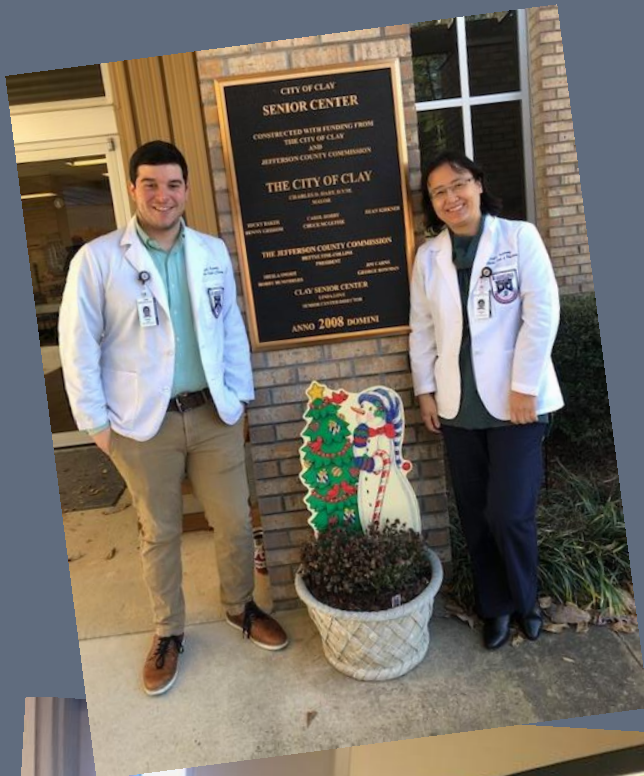


The RPCC hosted 12 PharmD candidates from the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy and the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy in 2018.

Pharmacy students learn about toxic exposures, envenomations, and take poison and drug information calls while on rotation in the Poison Center.

They also presented 10 Adult Medication Safety Programs at local Senior Centers.

The RPCC also hosted 24 UAB residents and 15 medical students.



Alabama's Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures

1. Household Cleaning Substances
2. Cosmetics
3. Analgesics
4. Foreign Bodies/Toys
5. Antihistamines
6. Pesticides
7. Topical Preparations
8. Vitamins
9. Dietary Supplements/Herbals
10. GI Preparations

National Top 10 Substances seen in Pediatric Exposures*

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6. Antihistamines
7. Vitamins
8. Pesticides
9. Dietary Supplements/Herbals
10. Plants

*National data for the year 2017, 2018 data will not be published until 12/19



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