

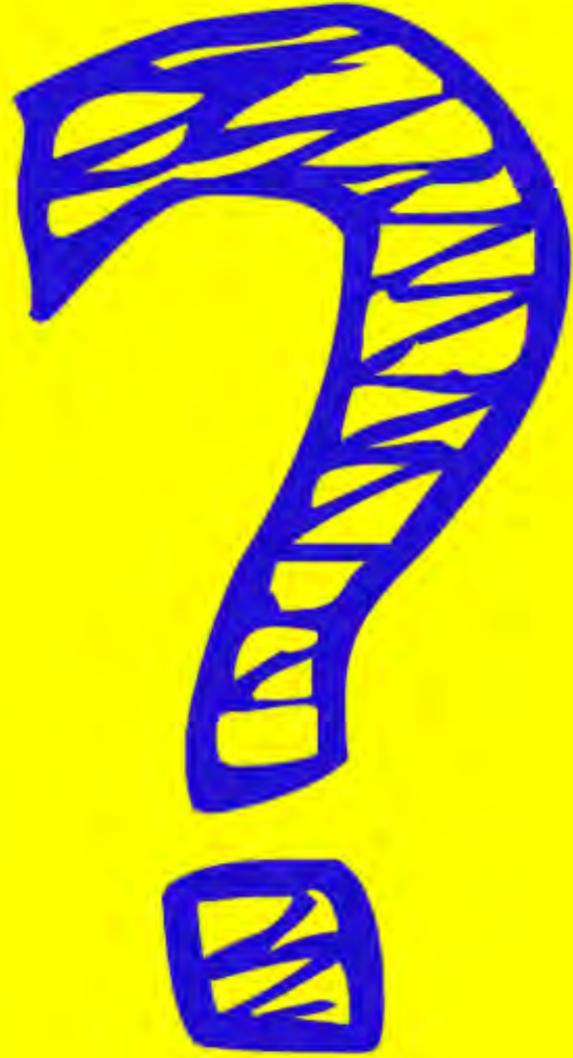


Oops, They Ate What?!

Classroom Poisons, Curious Kids, and the Poison Center's Lifesaving Help Line

Amanda Ruback, MSN, RN, CSPI
Community Outreach Coordinator





What types of things do kids put in their mouth that they shouldn't?

Learning Objectives

01

Upon completion, the participant will be able to determine common poisons that children may encounter.

02

Upon completion, the participant will be able to foster a proactive approach to poison prevention and emergency response in schools.

03

Upon completion, the participant will be able to highlight the resources and support offered by poison centers.

Poisonings are...

- Predictable
 - Time of day
 - Disruption in household
 - Relying on child resistant packaging
- Preventable
 - Accessibility
 - Proper storage
 - Education

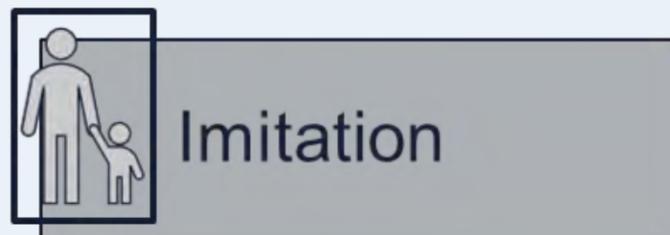
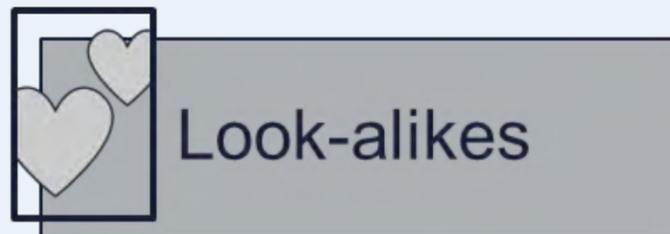
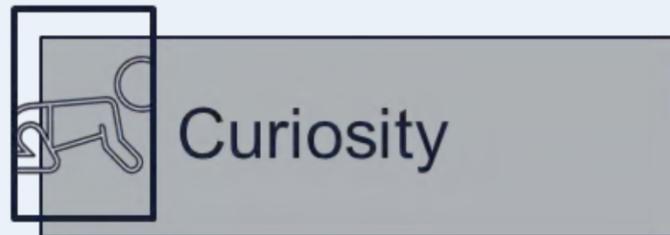
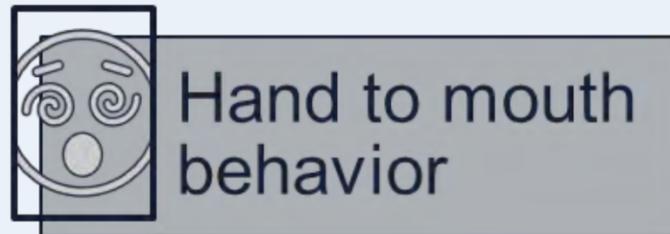


Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate expert advice.

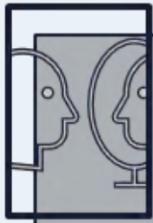
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5 Years and Younger



6-12 Years

-  Independence
-  Time alone
-  Magical thinking
-  Dares

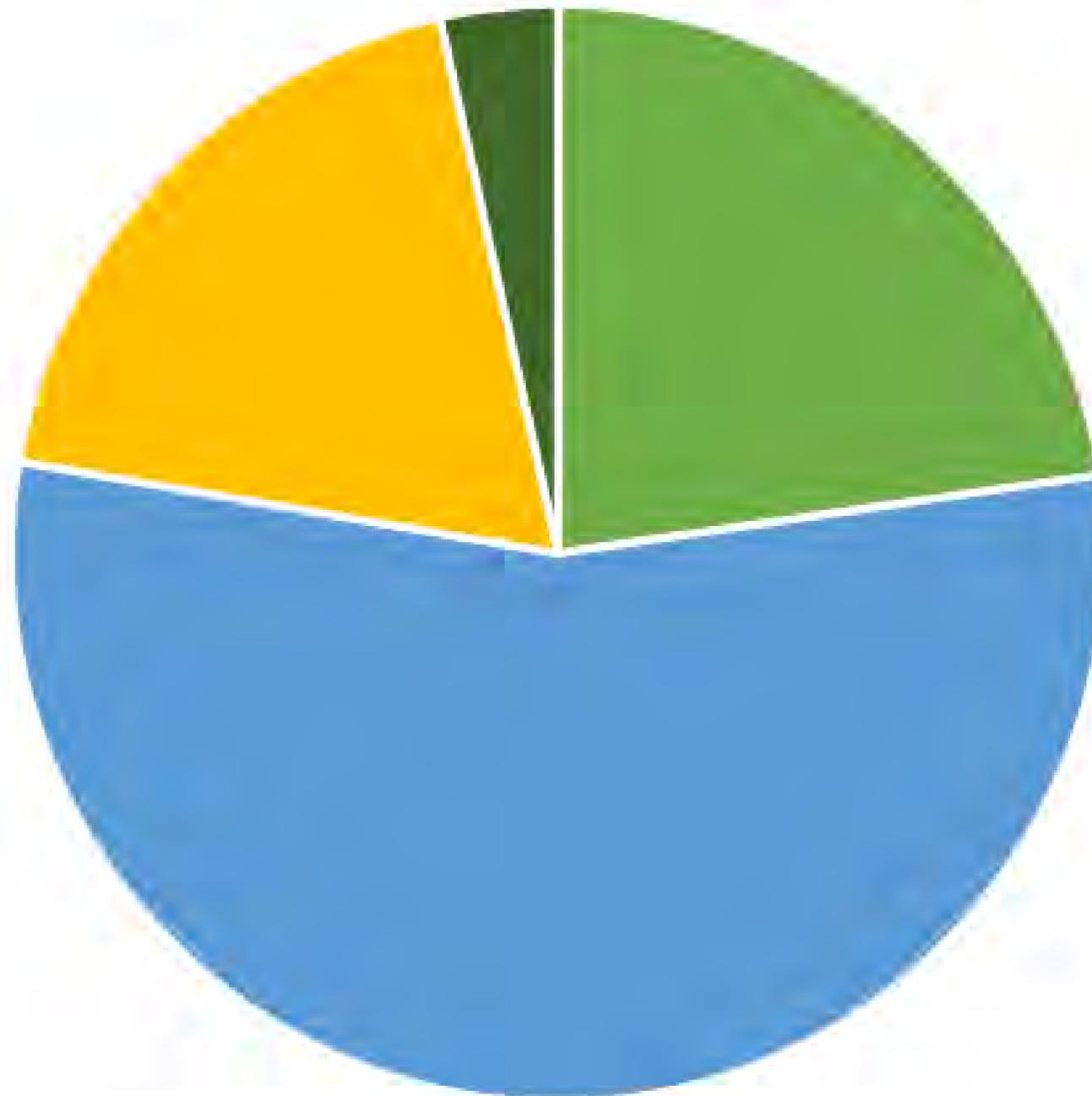


Tweens and Teens

-  Workplace
-  Stress
-  Peer Pressure
-  Misconceptions



School Exposures by Age



■ 1-5 years

■ 6-12 years

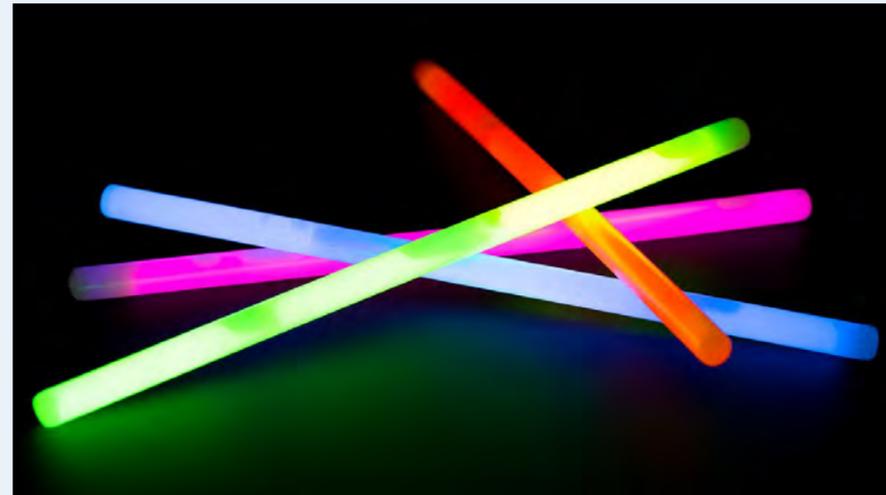
■ 13-19 years

■ Unknown child (<=19 yrs)

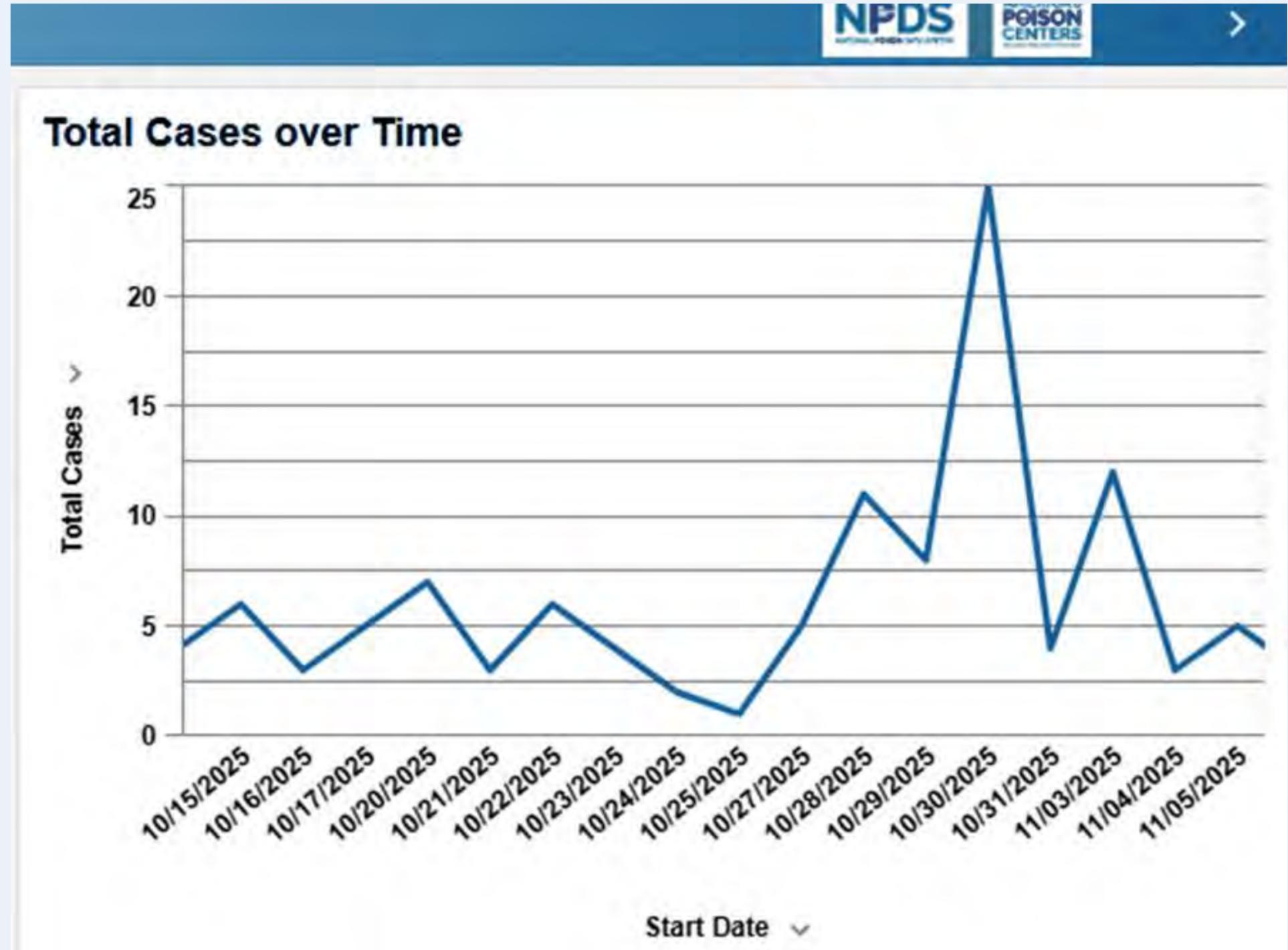
Common School Poisons



- Foreign bodies, toys, miscellaneous
- Other chemicals
- Hand sanitizers
- Pens/inks
- Sodium/salts
- Desiccants
- Expanding water beads
- Plants
- Glow products
- Methane/natural gas**



Methane



Unusual School Poisons

- Cannabis edibles
- Lacrimators/defense sprays
- Mushrooms
- Fiberglass
- Fire extinguishers
- Glass





Real Life School Calls



- School custodian inadvertently sprayed Expo White Board Center in his eyes.
- Child arrived at school after receiving a double dose of his own medication. (Parents and Grandma both dosed the child).
- Two 14-year-old girls were found huffing fumes from an aerosol hair spray while the teacher was out of the classroom.
- HS student got copper chloride and hydrochloric acid on skin while in science class.
- Three 3rd graders took varying amounts of a gummy vitamins from a fellow student who brought the medication to school.
- 3-year-old preschool student ingested up to a mouthful of shaving cream.
- 17-year-old took 4 tablets of Morphine 30 mg about 3 hours ago because he was stressed and having a bad day.

A class of kindergartners accidentally drank tequila during snack time at a school © Organically Human

A kindergarten class in Michigan accidentally drank tequila during snack time.

A student brought in Jose Cuervo's ready-to-drink margaritas and the children thought it was juice.

A kindergarten class in Michigan accidentally consumed tequila during snack time, Fox 2 Detroit reported.

One of the kids brought a bottle of ready-to-drink Jose Cuervo margaritas to Grand River Academy Livonia in her backpack, according to the news outlet.

Several students drank it. One kindergartner "felt woozy" and a "little dizzy" after having four or five sips from a Dixie cup, a parent told Fox 2 Detroit.

The kindergartners who drank the margaritas told their parents they thought it was juice. But the kindergartner who initially brought the drink in knew it was alcoholic, Fox 2 Detroit reported.

"The girl poured it in her cup and she drank it and the girl ended up telling her what it is, and she went and told the teacher there is liquor in this cup, and the teacher gave her a funny face,"

Dominique Zanders, a mother of one of the kindergartners, told Fox 2 Detroit.

In a statement, the school said faculty called poison control when they learned the children had been drinking margaritas, according to Fox 2 Detroit.

"While we try to keep an eye on everything our students bring to school, that's simply not possible," the school said in its statement. "It's unfortunate that these types of adult beverages can be easily mistaken for child-friendly drinks."

"I'm not sure if they are short-staffed or whatever, it shouldn't have happened," Zanders told Fox 2 Detroit.

The school said parents were notified immediately and told that their kids were okay.

Outraged parents are blaming the child's own parents.

"If your child knows what it is, nothing wrong with it. But they should know not to touch it,"

Alexis Smith told Fox 2 Detroit. "That it's not for kids."

"I had a small conversation with my daughter - nothing big - and she told me the girl knew it was liquor," Smith said.

Grand River Academy Livonia did not immediately respond to Insider's request to comment.

Written by: Yelena Dzhanova

A class of kindergartners accidentally drank tequila during snack time at a school

Story by Organically Human • 2d • ⌚ 2 min read



A class of kindergartners accidentally drank tequila during snack time at a school
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At least a dozen elementary students exposed to marijuana gummies, police say; mom arrested

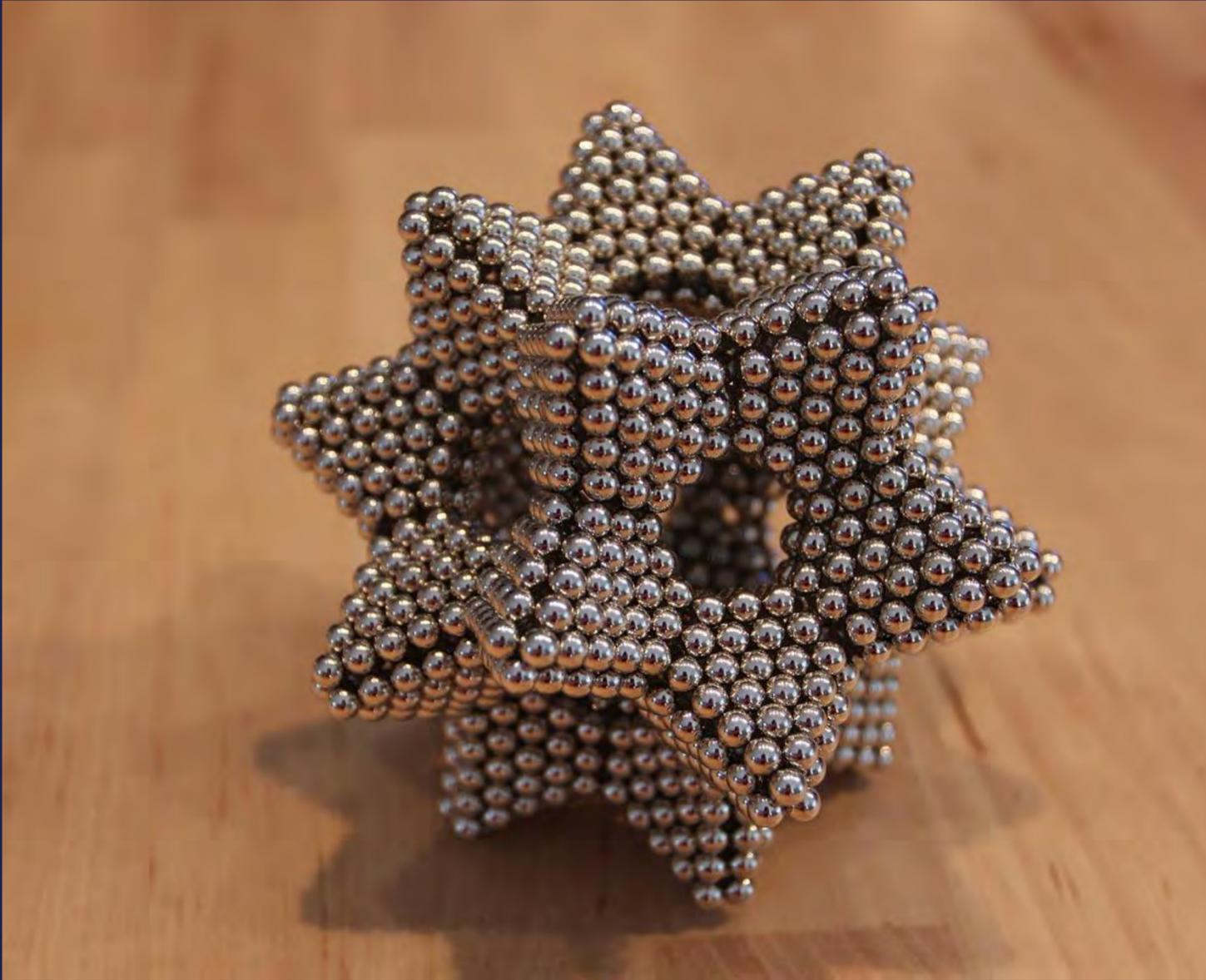


By [Jacqueline Howard](#) and [Rebekah Riess](#), CNN

🕒 3 min read · Updated 6:35 PM EST, Tue February 5, 2019

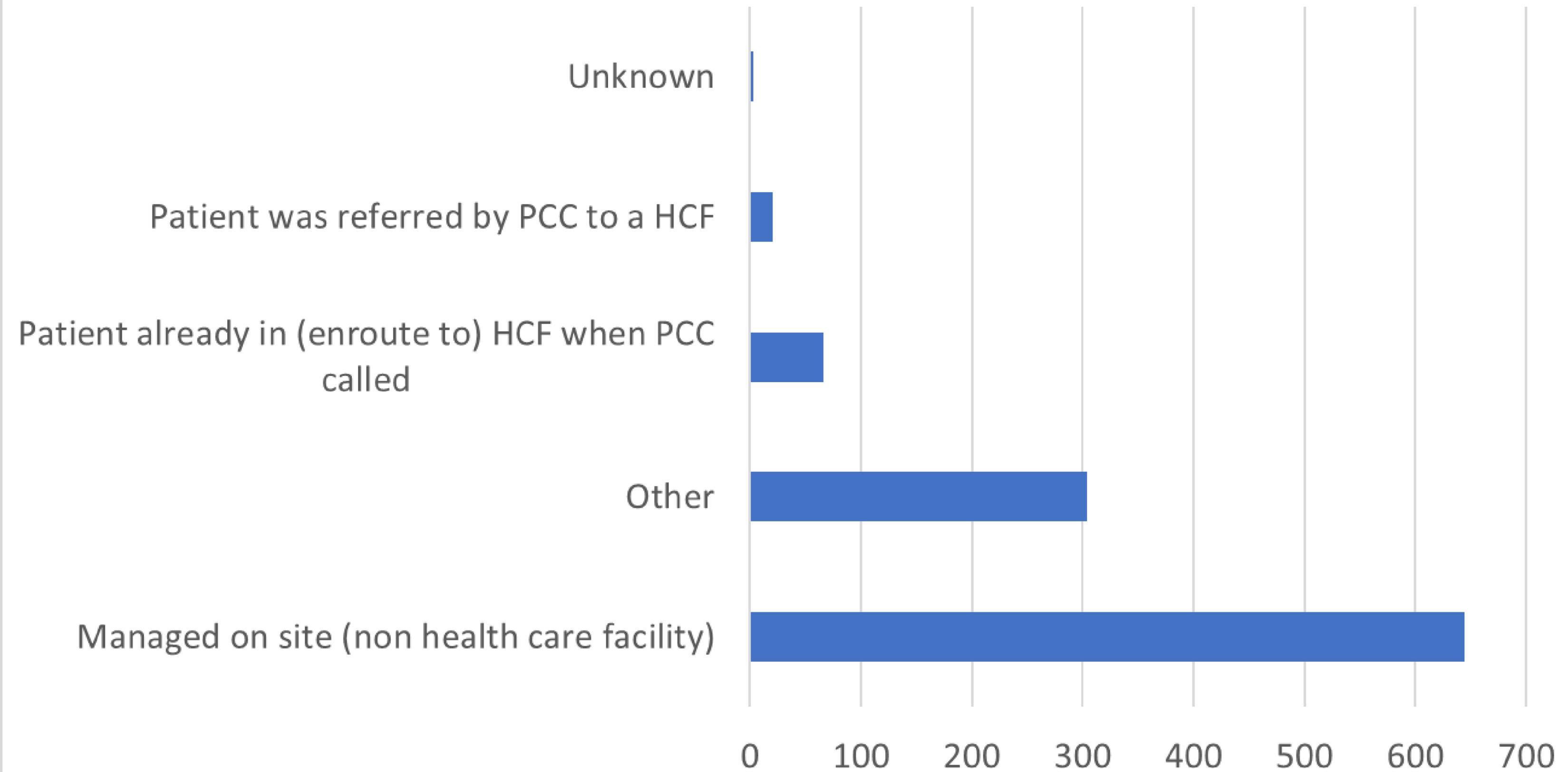








Management Site of School Based Calls



Medical Outcome	Cases
No effect	540
Minor effect	229
Not followed, minimal clinical effects possible (no more than minor effect possible)	162
Not followed, judged as nontoxic exposure (clinical effects not expected)	44
Unrelated effect, the exposure was probably not responsible for the effect(s)	30
Moderate effect	15
Unable to follow, judged as a potentially toxic exposure	12
Confirmed nonexposure	4
Major effect	1



Immediate Actions in Poisoning Cases

Assess the Child



Quickly check the child's condition for any symptoms. Remain calm.

Remove Access



Remove the poison and secure the area to prevent further access to potential hazards.

Call for Help



Immediately contact your local poison center or emergency services.



Contacting the Poison Center 1-800-222-1222

- The call is poison related
- Something was swallowed
- Something was inhaled
- Something was splashed in the eye or on the skin
- Something was injected, to include animal/insect bites

INHALED



IMMEDIATELY GET THE PERSON TO FRESH AIR, THEN CALL 1-800-222-1222.

SWALLOWED



DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. CALL 1-800-222-1222.

SKIN



REMOVE CONTAMINATED CLOTHING AND RINSE SKIN WITH WATER FOR 10 MINUTES, CALL 1-800-222-1222.

EYE



RINSE EYE WITH LUKEWARM WATER FOR 5-10 MINUTES, CALL 1-800-222-1222.

IF THE PERSON STOPS BREATHING, COLLAPSES, OR HAS A SEIZURE, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!



Poison Prevention and Education

Safe Storage Practices

Essential tips for preventing poison access



Locked Cabinets

Always keep poisons in locked storage areas.

Original Containers

Store hazardous materials in their original packaging.

Out of Reach

Ensure all poisons are stored high and away.

Clear Signage

Use visible labels to warn about potential dangers.



Poison Prevention



Avoid Look-alike products



Look-alike products can cause confusion in children

Button batteries



Button batteries are very dangerous and should not be handled by children

Be prepared



Contact the Poison Help line
1-800-222-1222 and post the
number prominently

Poison Prevention Training



Staff Training

Effective training empowers staff to prevent poison incidents.

Importance of Policies



Policy for poisonings

Schools should have policies in place for poison exposures that include calling their Poison Center.

Collaborating with Poison Centers for Safety



Partnership Opportunities

Invite the poison center to community events, trainings, and share their resources.



Poison Center Services and Support

24/7 Help Line

The poison center offers a round-the-clock help line for immediate assistance, providing expert guidance for any poisoning emergencies or questions.



Expert Advice

Specially trained nurses and pharmacists deliver expert advice tailored to specific situations, helping educators and parents navigate challenges related to poisoning incidents with confidence and accuracy.

The Missouri Poison Center Team



Reasons for Schools to Call

- #1 Safety Net
- #2 Documentation
- #3 Detective Work
- #4 Friendly and Free
- #5 Free Resources:

www.missouripoisoncenter.org



Preschool Lesson Plans

Young children are curious by nature and their budding imagination is in over-drive! These lesson plans are geared to interactively teach preschool students about poison prevention.



In the Home

Children will learn to identify items in the home that aren't safe and know to stay away!

[Read More](#)



Danger Outdoors

Children will learn not to touch, taste, or smell plants or insects that may be poisonous.

[Read More](#)



Can Good Things Be Bad For You?

Children will learn that even good things can be bad if they are used in the wrong way.

[Read More](#)

K – 2nd Grade Lesson Plans

Curious minds can be a fantastic thing, especially in young students. But curiosity can also be dangerous if not pointed in the right direction. These lesson plans are geared to teach students how to identify potentially poisonous items and how to avoid them.



Types of Poisons

Children will learn through an interactive game about different types of poisons.

[Read More](#)



Poison Investigator

Children will understand how to identify items that are safe and items that are poisonous.

[Read More](#)



Just Suppose

Children will use their knowledge to help decide what to do and how to stay safe from poisons.

[Read More](#)

3rd – 4th Grade Lesson Plans

Older children are building independence and problem solving skills in their daily lives, but this learning is still growing. These lessons are designed to teach growing students about poisons in their home, look-alike poisons, and how to stay safe from possible poisons.



Poisons in the Home

Many students do not think that they have poisonous items at home. This lesson will teach students what types of things are poisonous, and how to keep themselves and others safe.

[Read More](#)



Beware of Look-Alikes

Can your students tell the difference between a safe or a possible poisonous substance? This lesson will teach students how to identify poison look-alikes and how to avoid them.

[Read More](#)



Read That Label

Labels on medications and household products can have confusing directions. This lesson teaches students keywords to look for on labels and how to use these products safely.

[Read More](#)

Teens & Tweens Lesson Plans

While many teens and tweens are bombarded with information on a daily basis, filtering fact from fiction can be a daunting task for young minds. These lesson plans are geared to help highlight common issues and concerns for teens.



Vaping

Vaping can be dangerous and difficult to quit, especially for teens. This lesson will help educate teens about vaping and the potential health risks associated with vaping.

[Read More](#)



Medicines Aren't for Mixing

Prescription & OTC medicines are tested for safety, but combining medicines or other substances can be dangerous. This lesson explains active ingredients and side effects.

[Read More](#)



OTC Medicine Safety for Tweens

Students will learn about some of the risks associated with over use or misuse of OTC medicines. This lesson plan offers guided discussion questions and additional resources.

[Read More](#)

Older Adults Lesson Plan

Poison centers aren't just for parents whose children get into the cleaning cabinet. Adults, too, can use a poison center if a wrong medicine has been taken or the right medicine in the wrong dose.



Are You Taking Your Medicine Safely?

This lesson will teach older adults about the safe use of medicines. It covers the 5 Guidelines of Medicine Safety.

Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate expert advice.

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Activity Sheets

Download and print these fun games and puzzles to learn more about poison safety.



Circle the Ways

[Download](#)



Connect Poison to its Form

[Download](#)



Connect the Dots

[Download](#)



Crossword Puzzle

[Download](#)

Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate expert advice.

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Poison Safety Games



Play Now



Play Now

<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/look-a-like/>

Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate expert advice.

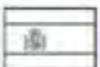
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Request Free Materials

The Missouri Poison Center offers a variety of educational materials and poison safety information to teach your family, friends, and community about poison prevention. We offer brochures, stickers, magnets, and an activity book perfect for children.

Please note that we can send materials only to individuals and organizations located in the state of Missouri.

-  All
-  Books
-  Brochures
-  Misc.
-  Posters
-  Spanish
-  Stickers



Posters
Be MO Prepared (8.5"X11")

1 Add To Order



Posters
Poison Purse (11"X17")

1 Add To Order



Posters
Mistaken Identities (12"X18")

1 Add To Order



Stickers
Mr. Yuk Stickers (10 stickers/sheet)

1 Add To Order

Gas Station and Novel Drugs Toolkit



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This toolkit contains essential information and resources for teachers, staff, nurses, and others who are interested in sharing resources about new and novel drugs of abuse.

Anything underlined in the toolkit is a link or download

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National Poison Prevention Week Toolkit for Partner Organizations

March 15–21, 2026
#NPPW26

AMERICA'S
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CENTERS
Treatment • Education • Prevention



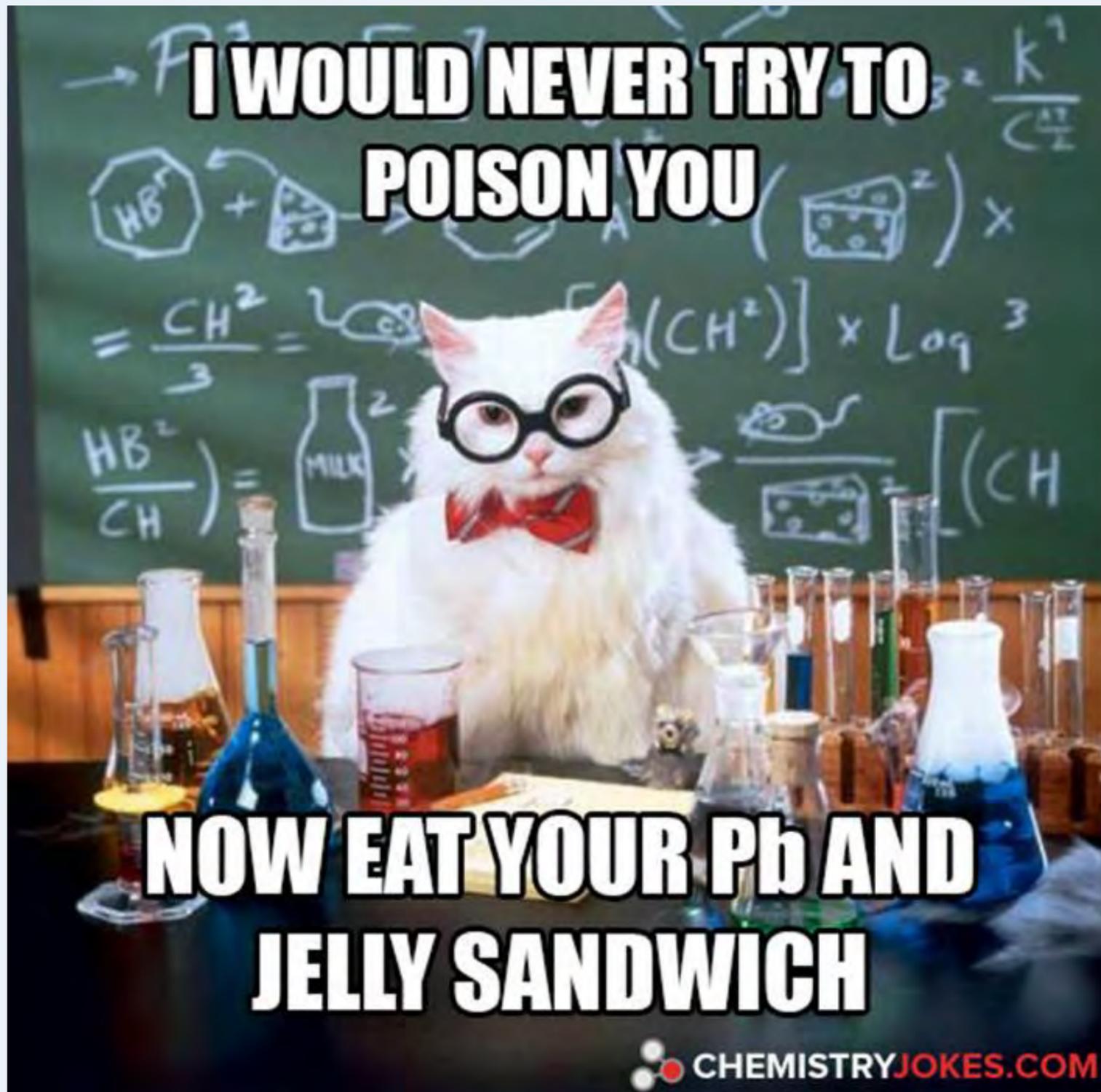
When the
Unexpected
Happens,
Poison Help
is here for you.

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Thank you for helping America's Poison Centers observe and celebrate National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) 2026! In this toolkit you will find a number of materials for your use during NPPW 2026 and descriptions on how to use them. You can click on any of the items below to go directly to that section of the toolkit or you can keep scrolling.

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**I WOULD NEVER TRY TO
POISON YOU**

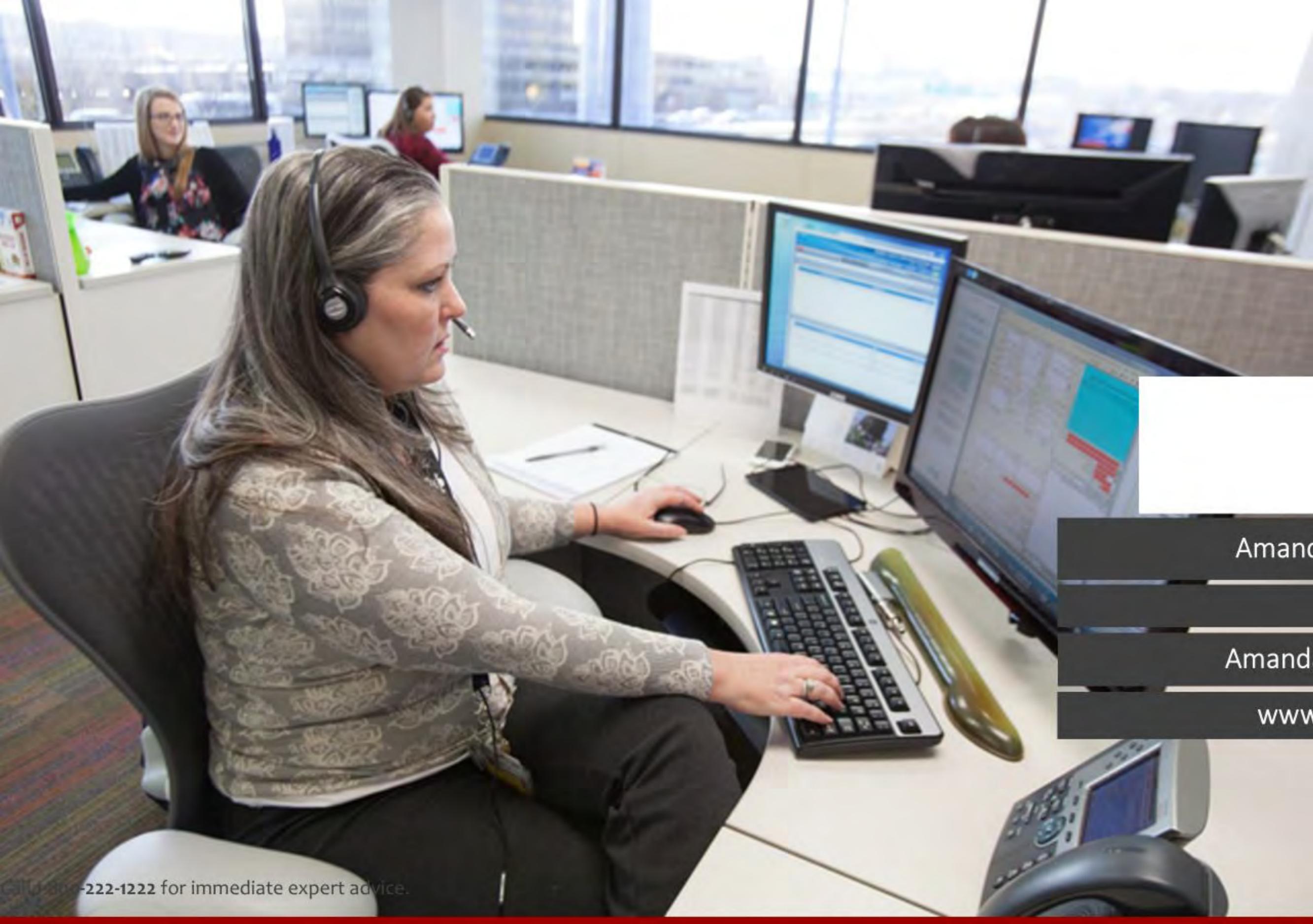


**NOW EAT YOUR Pb AND
JELLY SANDWICH**

Let's Recap....

- Use the Missouri Poison Center resources for your class and families
- Share our social media to your school accounts
- Use our website for online resources
- Share our information in your newsletter
- Reach out if you need resources or specific education on poison prevention





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www.missouripoisoncenter.org

Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate expert advice.

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