

Potential Safety Hazards at Home



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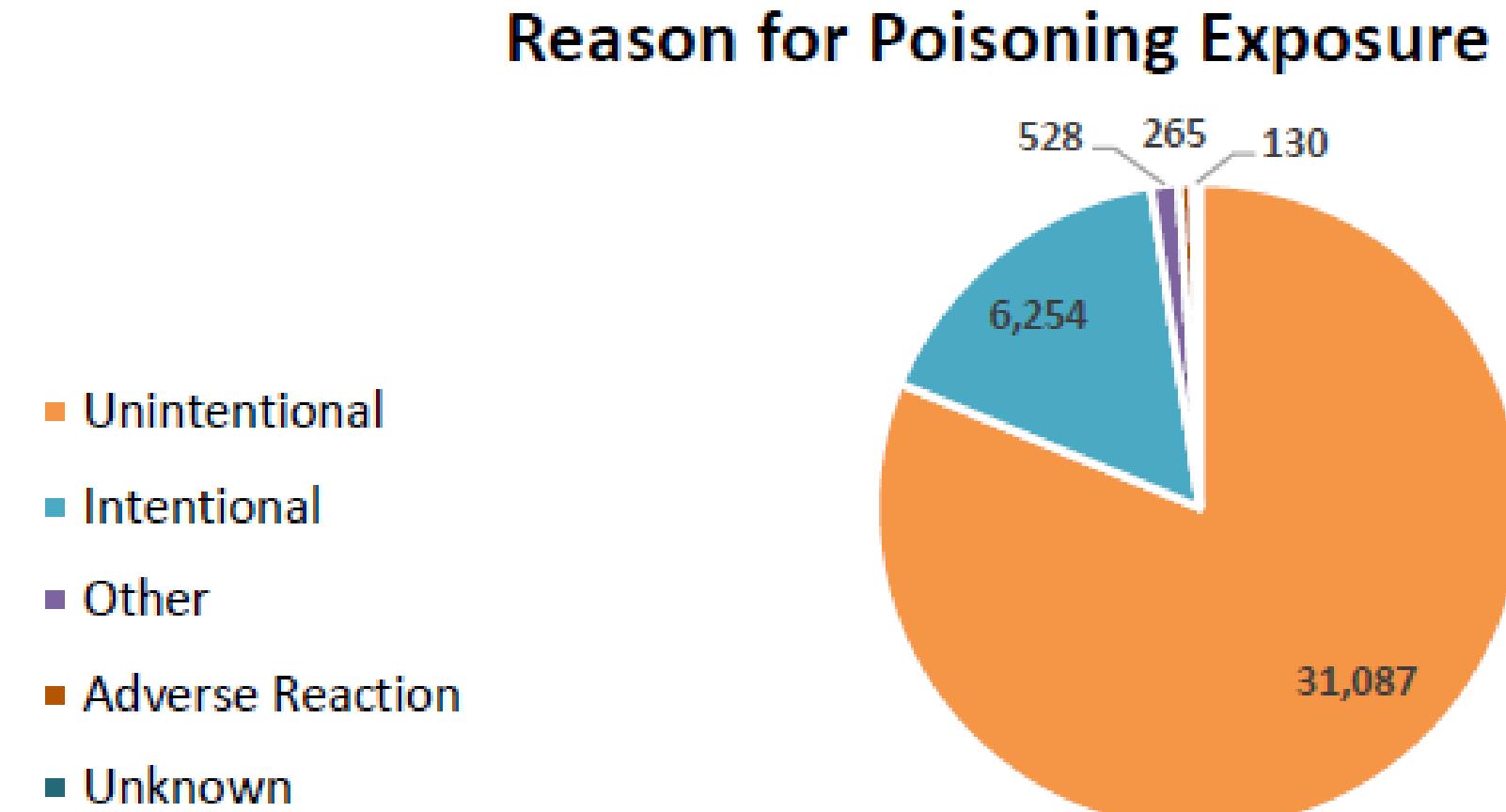
MA & RI Poison Control Center Statistics

In 2021, the Regional Center managed 44,489 calls with 83.5% of those calls originating from Massachusetts.

In 2021, majority of poison center exposure calls were at home (35,778 calls) at 93.89%.

Type of Poisoning:

- **Unintentional (81.24%)**
- Intentional (16.34%)
- Adverse reactions (1.38%)



Poison can be found in common household items....

11,135 poison exposures in 2021 were from **non-drug items** such as cosmetic/personal care products, cleaning substances, foreign bodies/toys/miscellaneous, pesticides, and alcohols.



What Is A Poison?

A poison is anything that can harm someone if it is:

- Used in the wrong way
- Used by the wrong person
- Used in the wrong amount

Poisons can come in four forms: solids (ex: medicine), liquids (ex: household cleaners), sprays (ex: spray cleaners), and gases (ex: carbon monoxide).

They can lead to severe organ damage or death if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.

Can You Spot the Difference?



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Be Prepared

1-800-222-1222

**Hearing impaired,
call 1-888-244-5313.**

**Free
Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week.**



1-800-222-1222

What To Do If A Poisoning Occurs

- Call 911
- If the person is awake and alert, dial 1-800-222-1222.
- Try to have this information ready:
 - the person's age and weight, if known
 - the container or bottle of the poison if available
 - the time of the poison exposure
 - the address where the poisoning occurred

Be the Last to Hang Up! Wait for instructions.

Tips to Prevent Poisoning - Medications

- Only take prescription medications that are prescribed to you by a healthcare professional & take medication exactly as prescribed.
- Never share your prescription drugs. Keep prescription, over-the-counter medication, & supplements out of reach from children.
- Follow directions on the label. Read all warning labels.
- Keep medicines in their original bottles.
- Dispose unneeded & expired medications.
- Participate in 'National Drug Take Back' days.



Tips to Prevent Poisoning - Household Cleaners

- Always read the label before using a product.
- Keep products in their original bottles or containers.
- Never mix household products together. For example, mixing bleach and ammonia can result in toxic gases.
- Wear protective clothing (gloves, long sleeves, long pants, socks, shoes) if you spray pesticides or other chemicals.
- Turn on the fan and open windows when using chemical products such as household cleaners.

“Don’t Keep It If You Don’t Need It!”

To safely dispose of medicines:

Remove all identifying information on the prescription drug label.
Turn them in at a local take-back program or National Drug Take-Back event.
Check with your local Health Department and Police Department (non-emergency line) for more information.



Can I Flush Medicine Down the Sink or Toilet?

NO! Many communities prohibit this practice out of concern over possible levels of drug residues found in rivers, lakes, and community drinking water supplies.

Instead, contact your local police department and/or pharmacy for safe medication disposal.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention

- Change the batteries in your CO detector at least once a year.
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Keep vents and flues in your chimney free of debris. Debris can block ventilation lines.
- Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed space, such as a garage.
- Never run a gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from an open window, door, or vent.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed space, even if the doors or windows are open.

If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 immediately.

Battery Safety

Batteries can pose a serious risk of injury and illness for children.

Risks:

Ingestion – batteries, particularly button batteries and lithium coin cells, pose a serious if swallowed

- internal burning and injury if electric current contacts internal bodily fluids

Leaking – dermal contact with corrosive substances from

leaking batteries can lead to serious burns and skin irritation

- Regularly check batteries in toys and devices to ensure battery is in good condition



Battery Safety Tips

The best ways to prevent injury from batteries include:

1. Regularly check battery-powered products

- a. Ensure that backings are secure and that batteries are not loose or leaking.

2. Store batteries safely

- a. Keep batteries in the childproof packages they are purchased in
- b. Store batteries out of reach and sight of children in the home

3. Dispose of used and/or leaking batteries

- a. It is important to dispose of used/leaking batteries as soon as possible so they are out of reach of children

4. Act immediately

- a. If you think your child may have swallowed a battery or came in contact with leaking corrosive fluid, seek emergency medical care

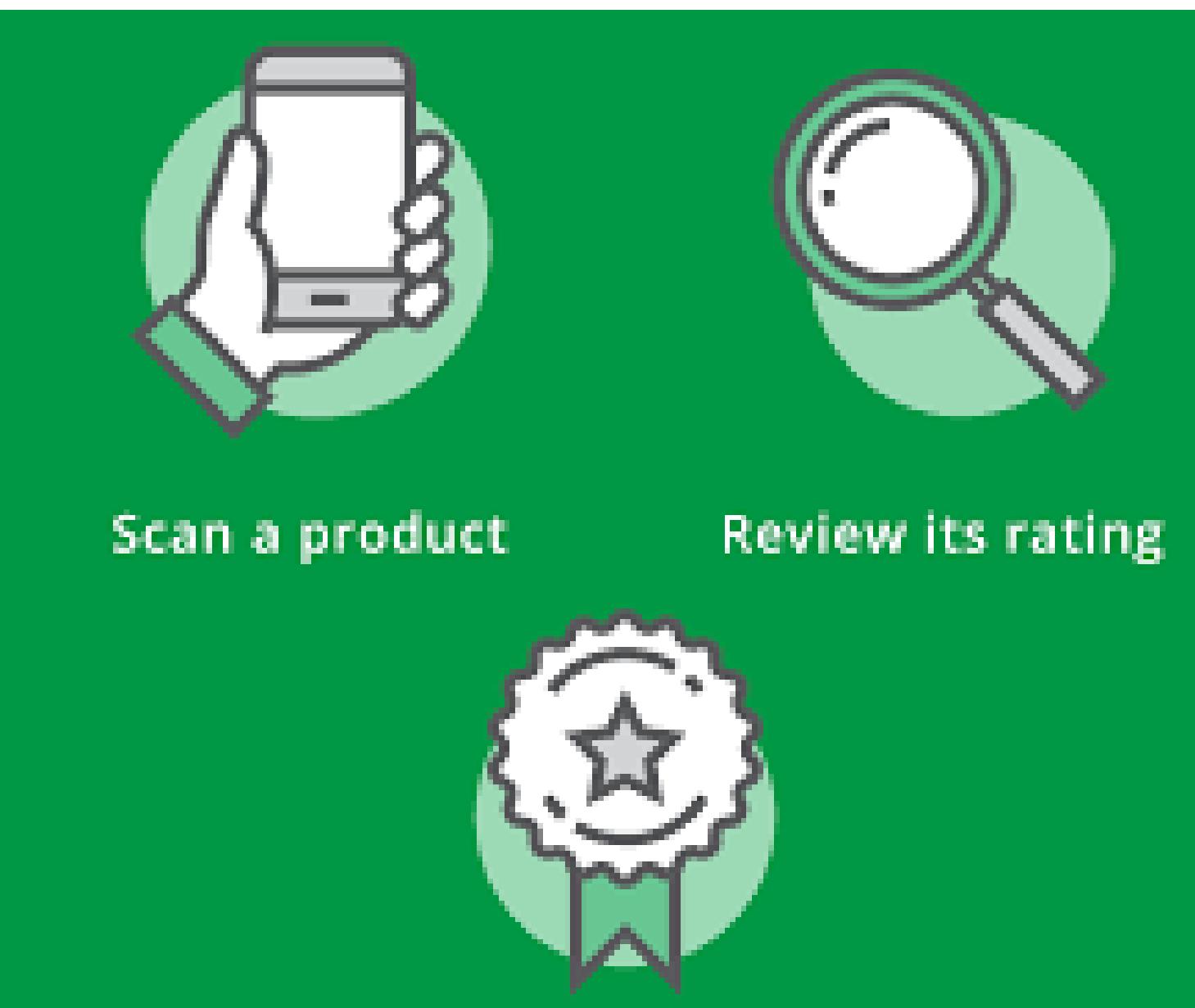


Additional Tips for Your Safety

To check the safety of your cosmetics, sunscreens, household cleaners, or food, The Environmental Working Group can provide in-depth information.

<https://www.ewg.org/>

Download their healthy living app -->



References

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