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# Connecticut Poison Control Center . 2004 and 2005 Bi-Annual Report on Poisoning in Connecticut

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## **2004 and 2005 Bi-Annual Report on Poisoning in Connecticut**

For the past 49 years, the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CTPCC) based at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC), has managed human exposures and poisonings throughout the state and continues to serve as a toxicologic center of excellence. A human exposure may be defined as contact by skin, eye, mouth or inhalation to any substance: animal, mineral or vegetable, including: bites, commercial products, chemicals, drugs, natural remedies and plants among others. A poisoning is any injury to the body resulting from an exposure. Toxicology is the scientific study of the adverse effects of any substance on the body.

### **Our Responsibilities and Mission**

The CTPCC protects the public health by providing toxicology-related patient care, information and education for the people of the State of Connecticut as well as their health care providers.

We fulfill this mission by continuously:

- Providing patient toxicology assessments and treatment
- Serving as a source of timely drug and toxicology-related information
- Educating people to be aware of poisonings and how to prevent them
- Monitoring for hazards due to chemicals, commercial products, drugs and natural substances
- Acting as sentinels for toxic terrorism to defend homeland security
- Conducting and presenting toxicology research
- Ensuring access to our services for all people
- Enhancing health care provider and student knowledge through education
- Working with public health and other agencies on health issues related to toxicology

### **The CTPCC protects the health of the people of Connecticut**

We are one of 63 U.S. poison centers certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), having recently been recertified in 2005:

- Access is free via 1-800-222-1222 and other communication technologies
- Our hotlines are staffed by Certified Poison Information Specialists 24/7/365
- The services of consultants in numerous scientific specialties is readily available

### **The CTPCC treats poisoning victims young and old**

- We prevent unnecessary ambulance trips and hospital visits
- We coordinate emergency transport to Connecticut hospitals (when required)
- We provide case-tailored and age-specific treatment advice
- We provide access to board-certified physician toxicologists 24 hours a day  
(Nearly 2,000 medical toxicology consults were provided in 2004–05)
- We provide access to follow-up care at the Medical Toxicology Clinic of UCHC.

### **The CTPCC works with other Public Health Services**

- We promote terrorism readiness with the CT Department of Public Health (DPH)
- We enhance response to public health emergencies and terrorism threats
- We work with the DPH to identify environmental and occupational health concerns
- We collect data and manage hazard-tracking databases in Connecticut

(2,953 environmental and 814 occupational poisonings recorded for 2004–05)

#### **The CTPCC Educates Current and Future Health Care Providers**

- We provide toxicology fellowships and clinical training for students in healthcare professions  
(29 physicians, 28 pharmacists and 28 health care students received training)
- We offer education programs for physicians, nurses and EMS systems  
(Over 100 poison-related programs were conducted in 2005)

#### **The CTPCC Educates the People of Connecticut**

- We provide a variety of poison prevention and education programs for consumers  
(47 presentations, 287 health fairs and 316,000 units of poison-related materials were provided during 2004–05)
- We provide a Poison Safety Helper Program for teachers, nurses and others
- We work closely with various coalitions, task forces and community groups.
- We provide timely information for the public through media presentations  
(163 TV, radio and newspaper interviews were given during 2004–05)

#### **Poisoning Statistics for 2004 and 2005 for the State of Connecticut**

- We provided help for 55,678 poison victims (*see* Figures)
- We placed nearly 60,000 follow-up calls for continued care
- We responded to 12,479 requests for toxicology-related information
- We analyzed the characteristics of poisonings throughout the state (*see* Figures)

#### **Fatalities 2004 and 2005**

- We provided summary reports on poisonings resulting in death (*see* Figures)

#### **The CTPCC staff and consultants conduct valuable research**

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