

There When You Need Us



About the Illinois Poison Center Helpline

The Illinois Poison Center's (IPC) toll-free, confidential 24-hour helpline is staffed by specially trained medical experts who provide comprehensive and trusted information and advice on potentially harmful substances.



Our Contribution to Illinois Public Health in 2019:

80k

MANAGED CASES TOTAL

- **73.7k** required advice on treating someone exposed to a potentially harmful substance.
- **Nearly 41%** involved children aged 5 and under.

23.6k

CASES FROM HOSPITALS

- Medical professionals throughout Illinois turn to IPC for specialized consultation services.
- **24%** increase in cases originating from acute care hospitals in the past decade.

30k

ED VISITS PREVENTED

- **90%** of poison exposure cases resolved over the phone, eliminating the need for referral to a healthcare facility.
- **91k** follow-up calls on poisoning exposures.

Economic Impact

\$60m

ANNUAL COST SAVINGS

IPC prevents unnecessary utilization of healthcare resources.

- **70%** of people will use local emergency services if a poison center is not available, overburdening hospitals and creating unnecessary medical costs.
- Consulting a poison center shortens the average length of stay for admitted poisoned patients by **1-3 days**.

Education and Outreach

136k

PEOPLE REACHED BY VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS

IPC provides education to the public and healthcare providers.

- The online **Poison Prevention Education Course and Resource Center** is free to all.
- IPC is a partner in the **Toxikon Consortium**, one of the largest and most successful professional toxicology training programs in the nation. In the past 5 years, IPC has provided experiential toxicology training to **over 1k** healthcare students and professionals.