

## UNITED STATES POISON CENTERS

### Quick Facts and Figures:

- The entire U.S. population is served by local poison centers.
- 65 local poison centers are in operation in the United States.
- 2.17 million human exposure cases were reported to local poison centers in 2000.
- 6,030 poison consultation calls are handled on average every day by local poison centers.
- 27 million human poison exposure cases are documented in a confidential database maintained by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. The data are used to identify hazards early, focus prevention education, guide clinical research and direct training.

### Local Poison Center Services:

- Poison centers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Poison center experts provide immediate advice. Most of the time, the caller can take care of the poison exposure problem with phone contact only. If hands-on medical treatment is necessary the poison center expert will call an ambulance, stay on the line until the ambulance arrives and give treatment advice to the emergency care providers.
- Poison centers answer non-emergency calls, too. This includes calls for poison prevention information. People can also call to find out about drug interactions, whether a plant is poisonous, or how to use a pesticide safely among other things.
- Poison center experts serve as a vital resource to their local health care communities. Emergency room doctors and nurses call the poison center when they have a question about treatment or prevention.
- Poison centers serve the hearing impaired and non-English speaking populations.
- Local poison centers collect vital information everyday that is used to help safeguard public health. Information from poison control centers is used to promote product reformulation, repackaging, recalls, bans and regulatory action; and to monitor new drugs and products in the marketplace.