



American College of  
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

# POLICY STATEMENT

Approved January 2022

## *Role of Poison Centers in Emergency Health Care, Preparedness, and Response*

Reaffirmed January 2022,  
April 2016

Revised September 2010 titled  
“Role of Poison Centers in  
Emergency Health Care,  
Preparedness, and Response”

Reaffirmed October 2006

Revised March 2000

Originally approved  
September 1995 titled,  
“Poison Information and  
Treatment Systems”

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) strongly supports the availability of high-quality, fully funded, certified poison centers to provide:

- Triage and management of poisoning calls from the public, saving medical expenditures for unnecessary health care visits while referring patients appropriately when medical evaluation is needed, as well as mitigating overcrowding of emergency departments.
- Consultation to physicians and other health care providers in the diagnosis and management of poisoning cases.
- Preparedness and response services to emergency responders, health care providers, public health officials, and the public during pandemics, public health emergencies and other hazards events, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents.
- Data surveillance to detect and monitor disease outbreaks and epidemiological trends.

ACEP supports the availability of evidence-based poison center triage/management services and prevention policies through legislative and regulatory advocacy at the local, state and national levels.

Emergency physicians have a unique opportunity and responsibility to work with stakeholders to reduce the prevalence and impact of poisonings through advocacy, education and research initiatives.