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Denver Health's Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety Encourages Community to Utilize Free, Life-Saving Services

New RAND Study Shows U.S. Poison Centers Save the Nation Billions Each Year

DENVER (Jan. 28, 2026) — In 2025, Denver Health's Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety (RMPDS) handled more than 40,000 poison center cases in Colorado and provided critical services to prevent poisonings and 24/7 expert support to families, individuals and medical professionals in the community.

It is one of 55 poison centers in the United States. According to a new, independent study released by [America's Poison Centers®](#) and conducted by [RAND](#), the report confirms that poison centers provide substantial economic and societal benefits for communities across the country, saving \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity.

The RAND report – [*Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments*](#) – found that for every \$1 invested in poison center services, communities receive \$16.77 in benefits. These cost-saving benefits reflect reduced emergency department use, shortened hospital stays, decreased mortality risk, enhanced public health surveillance, and improved patient outcomes.

However, despite their growing value, overall funding for poison centers has decreased by 8% from 2011 to 2024 in real dollars, in addition to a decrease in subsidized support. Amid rising health care costs, these budget cuts are an increasing threat to the ability of poison centers to provide life-saving services and essential 24/7 coverage.

The report found that poison centers and their national infrastructure have significantly modernized over the last decade, expanding beyond traditional telephone calls to offer text and live chat services that better meet the changing needs of the public and the health care system.

“This study confirms what we experience on every call — fast access to our specialists can keep people safe at home, prevent costly ER visits, and guide health care providers in treating



complex cases,” said Shireen Banerji, PharmD, DABAT, Clinical Toxicologist and RMPDS Director. “We are here 24/7 for Colorado families, visitors, caregivers, and clinicians.”

In addition to 24/7 guidance to the public and health care professionals, RMPDS also supports disaster response, medication safety education, substance use and overdose prevention, product surveillance, and collaboration with local and state public health agencies.

For additional information, or to read the full report, visit poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study. For fast, free, confidential help for a potential poisoning or question, contact the Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222, PoisonHelp.org, or reach your local poison center by visiting www.rmpds.org.

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About Denver Health

[Denver Health](#) is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care and proudly serves as the city’s safety-net hospital. For more than 165 years, Denver Health has been guided by its mission to serve the people of Denver, to educate the next generation of health care professionals and to engage in research and community partnerships to better deliver the services that meet our patients’ health care needs while strengthening our community.

About RMPDS

Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety has been serving the public since 1956. Whether it's innovative research in toxicology, progressive solutions in case management, emergency services, or regulatory compliance, Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety is a leader in public health protection.

We work to advance public health and improve access to care by providing knowledge and recommendations through teaching and research – all with the goal of maximizing effectiveness, reducing toxicity, decreasing injury and disease.



About America's Poison Centers

America's Poison Centers® represents the 53 accredited poison centers across the country. We are united in our cause to prevent poison-related health emergencies in America. Through the national Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222) and PoisonHelp.org, our member centers provide all Americans expert advice. We also maintain the National Poison Data System® (NPDS), our nation's only near real-time poisoning data surveillance system, integrating the latest information from across poison centers