



## *The California Poison Control System Protects Lives and Saves California Money*



### Quick Facts

- The California Poison Control System (CPCS) is the largest single provider of poison control services in the U.S. and California's primary source for treatment advice and information in case of poison exposure for both residents and health professionals.
- Services are free, operate **24/7** and interpreters are available at all times for over 100 languages.
- The CPCS manages over **330,000 calls annually** (~900 per day).
- Poison control saves California over **\$70 million** in health care costs and averts an estimated 61,000 emergency department visits annually.
- The CPCS is one of California's most efficient services
  - **Every \$1 spent on poison control services saves an estimated \$7** in medical spending. This 7:1 cost-benefit ratio is more than 3 times that of child safety seats, smoke detectors, or bicycle helmets.
  - CPCS applies \$0.94 of every dollar of state funding directly to program services.
- Poison control services are essential to California
  - Real-time detection and surveillance for emergent health events such as pandemic flu, and during CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) threats.
  - A medical staff available 24/7 to expertly manage infectious diseases, radiation exposures, chemical spills, pesticide and hazardous materials incidents with the most current medical expertise.
  - Free 24/7 access to medical experts for all residents. For vulnerable and non-English speaking communities, CPCS experts may provide the only access to a medical professional.
  - Tailored poison prevention programs and materials distributing nearly 1 million educational materials to consumers in 10 languages throughout California's 58 counties.

### Funding

- The California Poison Control System's (CPCS) annual operating budget is \$11.3 million.
- FY 10-11 California State General Fund allocation for poison control is \$2.95 million.
- Poison control funding was eliminated from the Governor's FY09-10 budget, but restored at 50% by the Budget Conference Committee and signed into the FY09-10 state budget.
- After a financial crisis which brought the service to within a month of closing permanently in December 2009, federal matching funds were secured through a state children's health program. The match is conditional to continued State General Fund contribution. It is imperative that the \$2.95 million General Fund allocation be preserved in order to obtain match funding and continue services.
- In addition, CPCS receives direct funding from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as part of the Poison Enhancement and Awareness Act and has several fee-for-service contracts.

### Operations

The CPCS is part of the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and responsible to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority. All CPCS operating funds come from sources outside of the University with substantial in-kind support from UCSF and host institutions.