TEXAS HAS A POISONING PROBLEM...

• Each year, the Texas Poison Center Network (TPCN) handles approximately 165,000 cases of possible human poisonings with an additional 120,000 information calls.

• 75% of calls originate from homes with over 90% of these human exposure incidents handled at home.

• Poisonings are the leading cause of unintentional deaths and up to 80% of poisonings are unintentional.

• Children younger than 6 years of age account for ONLY about half of all poison exposure calls. Unintentional poisonings affect all age groups.

• The top five substances most frequently involved in human poisonings are analgesics, cosmetics/personal care products, household cleaning substances, sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics, and foreign bodies/toys.

• The substances most frequently associated with the largest number of fatalities are sedatives, hypnotics, antipsychotics, cardiovascular drugs, and opioids.

• Poison centers are often the first to identify emerging public health issues like contaminated food and medicine, new trends in drugs of abuse and environmental hazards.

• Instead of calling the poison center, people are turning to the internet for poisoning advice where they often find questionable, non-scientific advice.

www.poisoncontrol.org

AS A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DID YOU KNOW:

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Specialists in the TPCN respond to calls from emergency departments, EMS personnel, physicians, law enforcement, and the general public.

Provides access to toxicology trained physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists 24/7.

Provides expert medical consultation in both acute and chronic cases, assistance with case management, and follow-up.

Provides you and your patients a safe and effective alternative to calling 9-1-1.

Saves tax dollars and resources by reducing unneeded ED visits and shortening hospital stays.

Using their statewide healthcare facility database, can identify the nearest appropriate facility for specialized treatment (ex. snake antivenom).

Provides educational materials at no cost for your office display, health fair or patient education efforts through convenient online service.

Answers information calls about drugs, recalls, chemicals, potential environmental hazards and other toxicological issues.

Provides active surveillance and information for emerging drug, poison, and disease trends (ex. west nile virus).

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