



## Washington Poison Center December 2016

Poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in Washington State. In a study commissioned by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) in 2012<sup>1</sup> to analyze the impact of the poison control center system on medical utilization, found every dollar spent on poison center system saves \$13.39 in overall health and medical care costs.

State law (RCW 18.76.030) directs the Department of Health (DOH) to support a statewide nonprofit program for 24/7 confidential emergency telephone management and treatment referral for victims of poisoning and overdose. The WAPC is staffed by nurses, pharmacists, and certified Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs) with clinical expertise in managing poisonings and drug exposures.

### **WAPC Services**

- Provides immediate, free and expert treatment advice and assistance on the telephone in the case of exposure to poisonous, hazardous, or toxic substances.
- WAPC is an accredited member AAPCC.
- Assists first responders with decisions to send aid, level of EMS care needed.
- Provides information and advice to health professionals.
- Participates in emergency response programs with DOH, local health jurisdictions, and the CDC.
- Translation support is available in over 150 languages along with resources to help the deaf and hearing impaired.
- In 2015<sup>2</sup> the WAPC:
  - Answered 63,732 calls, almost 172 calls per day.
  - 49 percent of all calls concerned children under age 6.
  - 92 percent of all household cases are treated at home.
  - Trained over 60 medical residents, fellows, pharmacists, and paramedics.

### **Stakeholders**

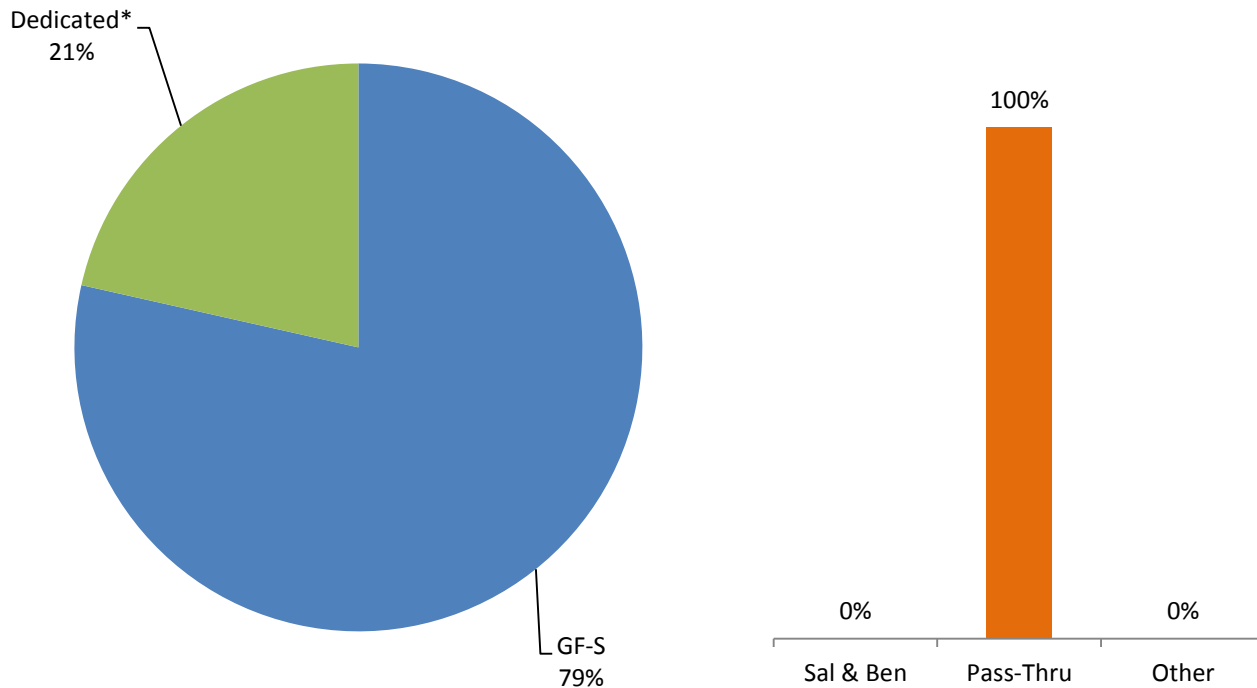
- Interest groups such as:
  - Washington State Hospital Association
  - Washington State Medical Association
  - Washington State Public Health Association
  - Washington Chapter College of Emergency Physicians
  - Washington Chapter Academy of Pediatric Medicine
  - EMS & Trauma Steering committee
  - Safe Kids of Washington
  - Bastyr University
- Health care providers such as:
  - Emergency room physicians and primary care providers
  - Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers
  - 24-hour care facilities like assisted living facilities and nursing homes
  - State agencies such as the Health Care Authority and K-12 schools and the University of Washington
- People in Washington State

<sup>1</sup> [Value of the Poison Center System: Lewin Group Report](#)

<sup>2</sup> [WAPC Annual Report 2015](#)

**2015-17 Biennium**

**Washington Poison Control Center Fiscal Information**



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated*	Fees**	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	1,806,000		494,000		2,300,000		2,300,000	

\*Dedicated Marijuana Account – Administered by the Liquor and Cannabis Board

\*\*Local funding – Fees charged for services

**Recent Funding History**

- 2009-11 Biennium:
  - (\$1,500,00) GF-S reduction to WAPC.
  - \$331,000 DOH and (HCA) secured federal matching funds through Title XIX Medicaid.
- 2011-13 Biennium:
  - (\$202,000) GF-S reduction to WAPC.
- 2013-15 Biennium:
  - No Updates
- 2015-17 Biennium:
  - 500,000 One-time, dedicated funds from the Dedicated Marijuana Account.