



**National Poison Prevention Week  
March 20-26, 2005**

*Children Act Fast... So Do Poisons!*

Each year, more than two million poisoning exposures are called into regional poison centers across America – the vast majority of them affecting children. In 2004 alone, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) handled more than 96,000 poison exposure and information calls. Of those calls, over half involved poisoning exposures in children under 6 years of age.

**During National Poison Prevention Week, March 20-26, 2005**, the IPC urges physicians to let their patients know they can reach the IPC 24 hours a day via a toll-free phone number: **1-800-222-1222**. Staffed by nurses, pharmacists, physicians and other poison information specialists, the IPC offers **free**, confidential advice on poison prevention and treatment to all Illinois residents and health care professionals.

Health care professionals are encouraged to call the IPC any time they have a poison-related question or concern regarding a patient case. Partnering with the IPC helps promote better patient outcomes and more efficient use of health care resources. With the IPC's assistance, approximately 78 percent of poisoning cases were safely and effectively treated at the site of the poisoning, saving an estimated \$26.6 million last year in unnecessary visits to a doctor's office or a hospital emergency department.

Illinois residents can order a free information packet – including IPC telephone stickers, a magnet, a poison prevention brochure, and a list of toxic plants. To place an order, visit [www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org](http://www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org), or call the IPC at 1-800-222-1222.

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