



**Utah Poison Control Center**  
Higher Education Subcommittee  
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Barbara Insley Crouch, PharmD, MSPH  
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
L. S. SKAGGS PHARMACY INSTITUTE

# Utah Poison Control Center

- Established in 1954
  - Second oldest poison center in the United States
  - Consulted on > 1.7 million poison exposures
- Mission
  - Prevent and minimize adverse effects from a poison exposure through education, service and research
- Statewide program
  - Administratively housed within University of Utah



# Funding History

- Prior to 1998
  - MCH block grants, state appropriation, Medicaid
- 1998 – 2014
  - Telephone surcharge ( $\$0.07/\text{line} = \$2.5 \text{ M}$  in FY 2014)
  - Poison Center Network Act (HRSA)
  - Other
- 2014 – present
  - Direct state appropriation initiated at  $\$2,100,000$
  - Poison Center Network Act (HRSA)
  - Other



# Statewide Benefits

- Immediate access to poisoning experts
- Poison prevention education
- Local and statewide poison trends
- Vital part of public health infrastructure
- Reduce burden on healthcare providers
- Integral role in health professional training



# The Numbers

- 45,000 consultations (120/day)
- All 29 counties
- 91% human exposures
  - 90% originate outside of healthcare facility
  - 86% of cases stay outside of healthcare facility
- Highest utilization of any poison center in US
  - 14.9 poison exposures/1000 population
  - twice national average



# The Value

- What Utahns would do without a PCC
  - 30% visit ED (\$18.3M)
  - 22% call 911 (\$22.7M)
  - 27% call MD (assume 64% referred) (\$10.5M)
  - Medicaid, CHIP or other state insurance = 20% (\$10M)
- **Estimated annual cost savings: \$51M**
- **Every \$1 spent on PCC averts \$17.10**



# Critical Funding Gap

- Critical internal review of operations
- Adopted legislative audit recommendations
- Maintain national accreditation

Critical funding gap: \$626,644



*Thank you for your ongoing support*



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