

		Upstate New York Poison Center
1-800-222-1222		
www.upstatepoison.org		

Poison Prevention

Newsletter

September 2017

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

60 YEARS



Arnot Ogden Poison Prevention Program Wins AHA Award for Excellence

Who knew 9 volunteers could have such an amazing impact on a community?

If you have ever met Marge MacPherson and this band of selfless volunteers, you would better understand exactly how the magic happens.

As a retired music teacher, Marge chairs the Poison Prevention Committee of the Auxiliary at Arnot Ogden Medical Center (AOMC) in Elmira, NY, one of 120 hospitals in the area served by the UNYPC. AOMC Auxiliary volunteers have been teaching poison safety to children since 1972. The volunteers provide materials to reinforce the message of poison safety and also direct parents to call the Upstate New York Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 with a poison emergency or for poison information.

In 1998, the Auxiliary created a new program featuring two mischievous bunnies named Twitch and Twiggle. Soon thereafter, Flibbety Jibbet, a curious squirrel, joined the bunnies. The adorable stuffed bunnies warn children of the dangers of medicines and teach listeners to stay away from poisons. This program is still going strong today in 6 NY counties, even reaching into northern Pennsylvania! To date the program has reached over 50,000 children, ages 3-6 in pre-school, kindergartens and nursery schools to stay away from poisons.

Since 1997, the Auxiliary has collaborated with a poison center on their efforts. At that time, the Finger

Lakes Poison Center consulted with the Auxiliary to help provide insight into poison center data, including the number of children poisoned annually, the agent of the exposure (most often medicine) and the site of the exposures (90% in the home setting). With the closing of the FLPC in 2011, the Upstate New York Poison Center stepped in to help by providing data, and adding materials and teaching tools, to make the volunteer's job a bit easier.

This year the program was recognized by the American Hospital Association with its Hospital For Volunteer Excellence Award in Community Outreach as the

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KIDS and MEDICINE SAFETY

Convenience vs. Caution



THE DISCONNECT

9 IN 10 PARENTS AGREE



it is important to store all medicines out of sight and up high after every use.

HOWEVER,



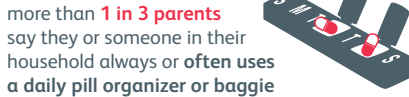
nearly 7 in 10 parents report storing medicine within a child's sight (on a shelf or surface at or above counter height).

9 IN 10 PARENTS AGREE



medicine should be kept in the original container.

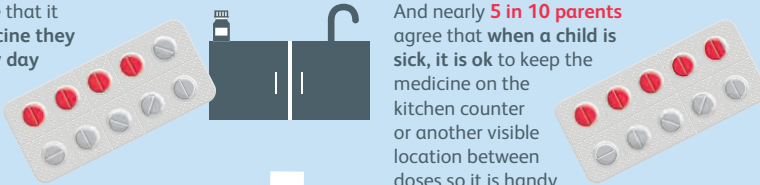
HOWEVER,



more than 1 in 3 parents say they or someone in their household always or often uses a daily pill organizer or baggie that children can easily get into if it's not stored out of sight and reach.

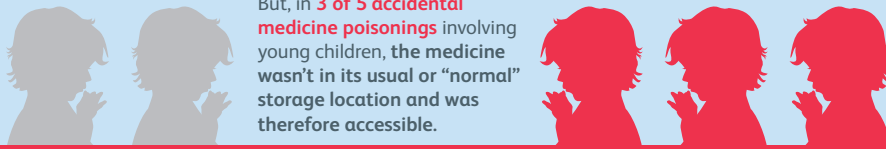
CONVENIENCE OVERRULES CAUTION

4 in 10 parents agree that it is okay to keep medicine they or a child takes every day on the kitchen counter or another visible location so it is handy.



And nearly 5 in 10 parents agree that when a child is sick, it is ok to keep the medicine on the kitchen counter or another visible location between doses so it is handy.

But, in 3 of 5 accidental medicine poisonings involving young children, the medicine wasn't in its usual or "normal" storage location and was therefore accessible.



Almost every minute of every day there is a call to a poison control center because a young child got into medicine.

UNDERESTIMATING THE RISKS

Nearly 3 in 5 parents think if medicine is out of reach, it's in a safe place.



But, research indicates in about half of OTC poisoning cases, the child climbed on a chair, toy or other device to reach medicine.



1 in 3 parents think if their child is being watched, it doesn't matter as much where medicines are stored.



But, parents frequently said in ED visits that they'd only turned their back for a minute.



Half of parents think child-resistant packaging means a child won't be able to get into medicine at all.



But, research suggests 45-55% of accidental poisonings involved child-resistant packaging.



Convenience + Risk = 440,000 Poison Control Center calls in 2015 because a child got into medicine.



SNADD

Sharps Needles And Drug Disposal

PROGRAM OF ONONDAGA COUNTY



Maybe you simply want to rid your home of unwanted, expired medications. But by properly disposing of your old meds, you might also be preventing drug misuse, abuse or confusion. **The next semi-annual DEA led Drug Take-Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 28th** at many locations throughout the nation. These events give the general public an opportunity to safely dispose of controlled substances, especially prescription pain relievers. However, non-narcotics and over the counter medications are also accepted. Sharps, needles and lancets are not collected at DEA drug take back events. Be sure to check the DEA website after October 1st for a complete list of police departments and pharmacies for medication drop off locations in your area. https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback

Additionally, many counties throughout NYS now have on-going medicine drop offs and sharps collections sites throughout the year. Check with your local police department, health department or pharmacy to find the locations in your area for medication drop offs and for safe needle disposal. For participating police department locations in Onondaga County visit <http://www.upstate.edu/poison/news/snadd.php>

Med boxes are also available at SUNY Environmental School of Forestry and at Onondaga County Community College at Campus Security.

For sharps collection sites in Onondaga County as well as exact locations at the site visit our website at: <http://www.upstate.edu/poison/news/snadd.php>

Arnot Ogden

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best program of its kind in the U.S., thanks to a nomination submitted by Rob Toonkel, Director of Volunteer Services at AOMC.

The UNYPC would like to congratulate and more importantly THANK all the volunteers of the AOMC's Poison Prevention Committee for many years of service to improving the lives of children through poison prevention. Dedicated team members include: Marge MacPherson, Bev Evans, Sue Fahnestock, Ellen Hicks, Maureen Gladke, Nan Wyak, Carol McGruder, Debbie Perry and Linda Murrelle. An additional round of applause to Arnot Ogden Medical Center for continued support of their volunteers who this award-winning program of poison safety in the communities they serve.

Note: UNYPC encourages hospital Auxiliaries or other community group with an interest in teaching poison safety to view our Teacher's Guide at <https://goo.gl/Fegda5> (shortened URL). For more information and materials available visit our website at www.upstatepoison.org or call the UNYPC at 315-464-5375 to speak with Lee, our Education Coordinator.



Program your cell phone

1-800-222-1222



You just may save a life!

**A Poisoning Can
Happen to **You!****



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