

# Tobacco/Nicotine Poisonings in Georgia

(April 15, 2009 to April 15, 2015)

- During the past six years in Georgia, there were a total of 1,513 calls made to the Georgia Poison Center about exposures or poisonings from tobacco- or nicotine-containing products (Table 1).
- On average, about 252 tobacco/nicotine poisoning calls were made each year.
- 116 calls have been reported during the 4 months of January, 2015 to April, 2015.
- More than half (853; 56%) of the calls were about tobacco/nicotine poisonings from cigarette use, followed by all other types of nicotine products, including nicotine-containing cigars and chewing tobacco (474; 31%), e-cigarettes (163; 11%), and the category including cigars, Nicoderm, Nicorettes, hookahs (23; 2%).
- Some of the common symptoms of tobacco/nicotine poisoning included nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, dizziness, seizures, headache, tachycardia, hypertension, edema, and throat or eye irritation.
- More than half (834; 56%) of the tobacco/nicotine exposures occurred among males, while there were 663 exposures for females.
- The overwhelming majority of exposures were among children aged 0-5 years (1,212; 80%).
- Calls (n=1,209) about children aged 0-5 years were due to unintentional exposures.
- The most common routes of tobacco/nicotine exposures or poisonings among children aged 0-5 years were:
  - Ingestion (n=1,185)
  - Dermal (n=20)
  - Inhalation/Nasal (n=4)
  - Ocular (n=1)

**Table 1. Number of Tobacco/Nicotine Poisonings or Exposures, by Product Type, Georgia, April 15, 2009 to April 15, 2015**

Tobacco Product Type/Substance	Number of Exposure Calls
Cigarette (cigarette butt, cigarette filter tip, cigarette smoke extracts)	853 (56%)
Nicotine (all types tobacco products including cigars and smokeless tobacco)	474 (31%)
E-Cigarette	163 (11%)
Other (Nicoderm, Nicorette, hookah)	23 (2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,513</b>

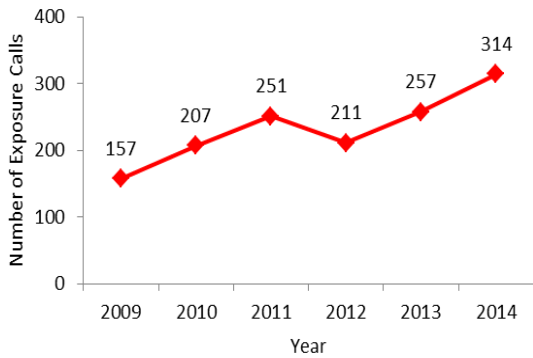
Data Source: Georgia Poison Center (GPC)



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- The number of calls for exposure or poisoning from products containing tobacco/nicotine has been steadily increasing since 2009 (Figure 1).
- 2014 had the highest number of calls (n=314) (Figure 1).

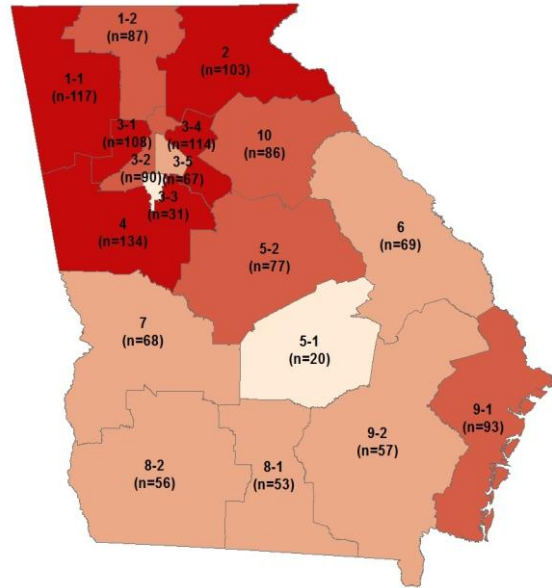
**Figure 1. Number of Tobacco/Nicotine Poisonings or Exposures, by Year, Georgia, 2009-2014**



Data Source: Georgia Poison Center

- The LaGrange (n=134), Northwest (Rome) (n=117), East Metro (Lawrenceville) (n=114), Cobb/Douglas (n=108), and North (Gainesville) (n=103) Health Districts had the highest number of tobacco/nicotine poisoning calls (Map 1).

**Map 1. Number of Tobacco/Nicotine Poisonings or Exposures, by Public Health District, Georgia, April 15, 2009 to April 15, 2015**



Data Source: Georgia Poison Center (GPC)

1-1. Northwest (Rome) 1-2 North Georgia (Dalton) 2 North (Gainesville)  
 3-1 Cobb/Douglas 3-2 Fulton 3-3 Clayton (Morrow) 3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)  
 3-5 DeKalb 4 LaGrange 5-1 South Central (Dublin)  
 5-2 North Central (Macon) 6 East Central (Augusta) 7 West Central (Columbus)  
 8-1 South (Valdosta) 8-2 Southwest (Albany) 9-1 Coastal (Savannah) 9-2 Southeast (Waycross) 10 Northeast (Athens)