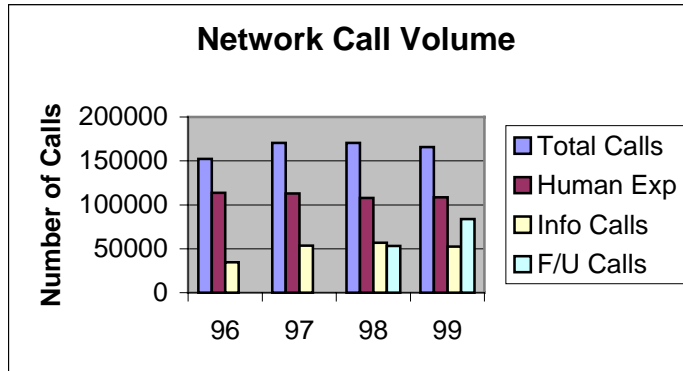


# *Florida Poison Information Network*

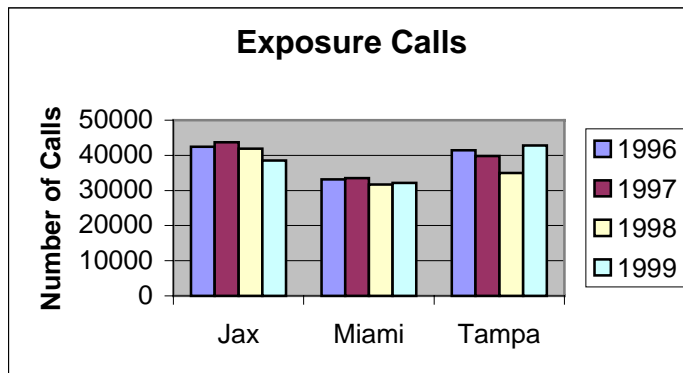
## **Florida Poison Information Network Data Center Shands Jacksonville University of Florida Health Science Center - Jacksonville**

### Annual Report for 1999 - Executive Summary

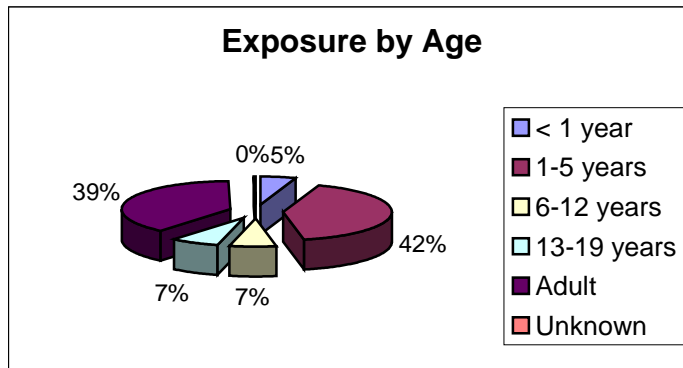
The Florida Poison Information Centers responded to a total of 165,838 calls in the calendar year 1999. Of the total calls received 113,452 involved exposure to a toxic substance while 52,386 were requests for information and referral. In addition, the Centers placed 83,734 follow-up calls to insure appropriateness of therapy (note: not included in total call count). Total calls decreased by 2.6% while human exposures posted an approximate 1% increase over 1998 volume.



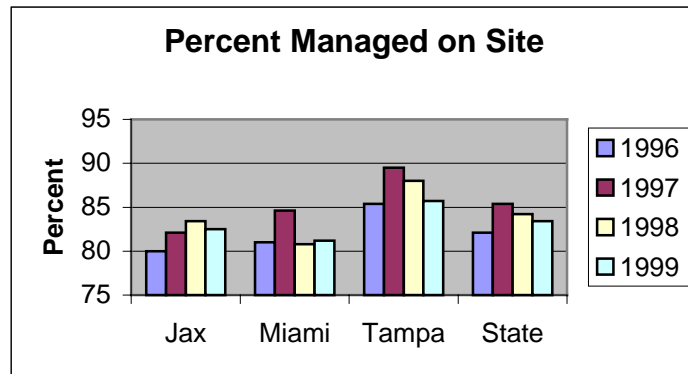
The relative proportions of exposure calls handled by each center did not change appreciably compared to past years.



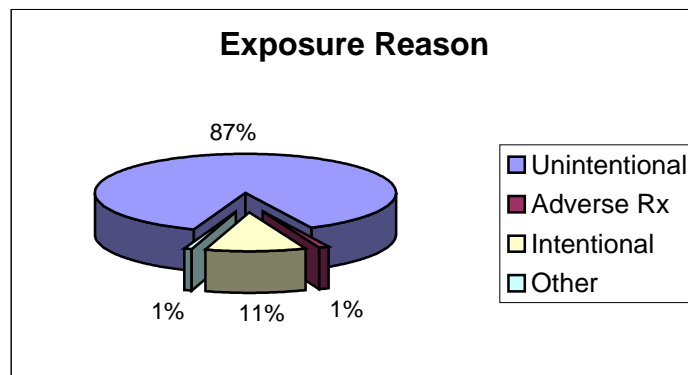
Poisoning exposure calls largely involved children. Almost half (48%) of the victims were children five years old and under. As might be expected from the age distribution, the overwhelming majority of calls (80.3%) came from a residence. Almost 15% came from health care facilities and the remainder was scattered among a variety of sources.



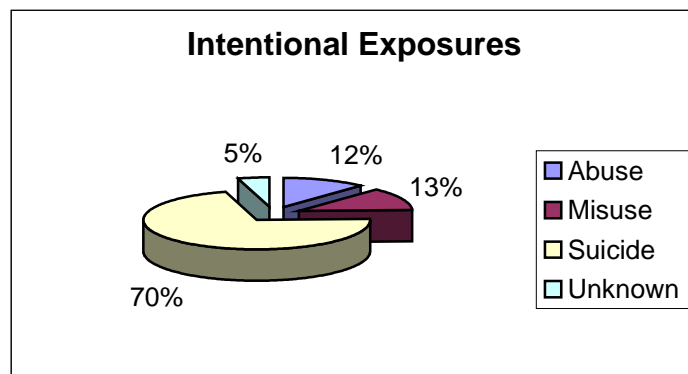
Performance standards for the Centers set a target of at least 70% of calls managed outside of health care facilities. In 1999, over 83% of all human exposure calls that did not originate from a health care facility were successfully managed on site. The remainder was referred to a health care facility for definitive care. There were no significant differences in the proportion of calls managed on site among the three centers or compared across years 1996-1999.



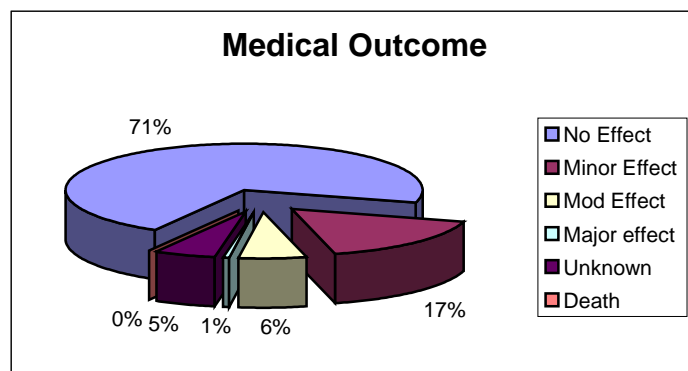
The vast majority of the exposures (87%) were unintentional, while 10.8% had some intentional component.



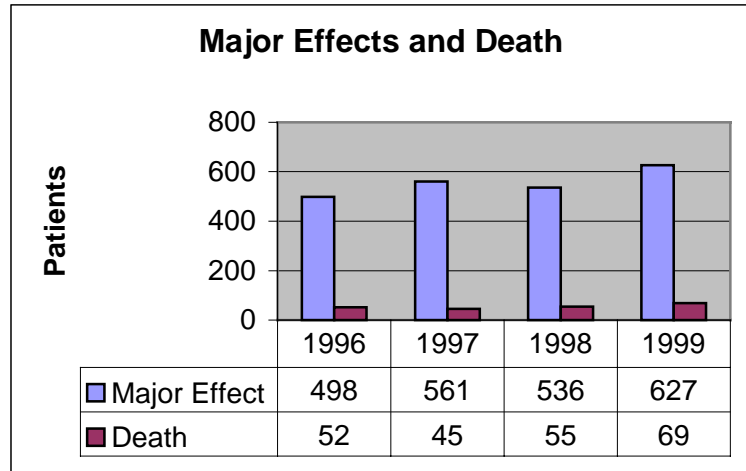
The most frequent reason for poisoning among the intentional ingestions was attempted suicide, which comprised more than two-thirds of all the cases judged to be intentional.



Most of the exposures in 1999 were benign, with slightly over 70% being classified as non-toxic, having no effect, or having unrelated outcomes.



However, 627 victims suffered major clinical effects, and there were 69 deaths. This is roughly comparable to data accumulated in 1996 through 1998.



The educational efforts for the combined Centers in 1999 included 1,323 presentations to the lay public reaching an estimated 77,940 people in 49 counties, and 391 presentations to health professionals. Statewide, 58.7% of lay public programs were conducted outside of host counties.

During 1999, 3,499 consultations with Network toxicologists were utilized to assist in patient care.