

JULY 2025

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

Poison Prevention While Traveling

Poisonings don't take a vacation! In fact, the risk of poisoning can increase while traveling due to various reasons.

While traveling, our daily routines are disrupted, we may be in unfamiliar environments, and things like medications and cosmetic/personal care products are stored differently.

Additionally, when traveling to new places you may be exposed to venomous critters and poisonous plants that you wouldn't otherwise encounter at home.

All of these factors contribute to an increased risk for poisoning or envenomation. Continue reading to learn about what you can do to prevent a mishap from happening during your next trip.



In this issue:

Poison prevention While Traveling: Safety Tips

Snake Week: Fun facts about snakes in Arizona

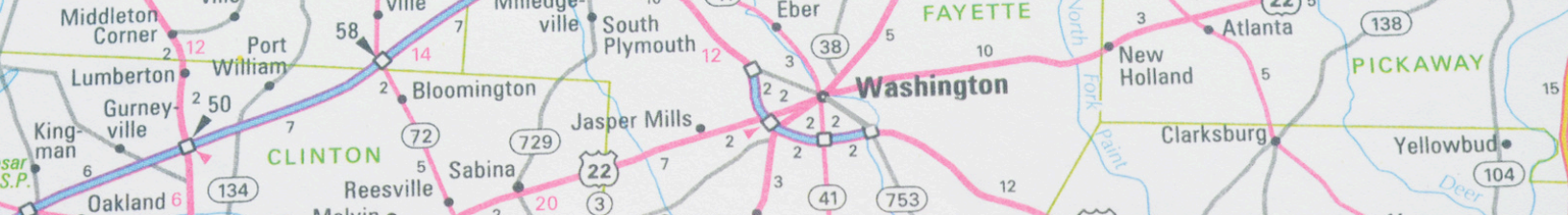
In the Community: Summer Outreach Events

Staff Spotlight: Taylor Hedges, MPH, CHES

ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



 1-800-222-1222



Snake Week: July 13th-July 19th

Snake Week is recognized in mid-July and World Snake Day is observed on July 16th each year. The purpose of these days are to promote education and awareness about snakes.

The following are some fun fact about snakes in Arizona:

- There are more than 13 different species of snakes in Arizona--venomous and non-venomous.
- The most common rattlesnake in Arizona is the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.
- The Arizona state reptile is the Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake.
- The Gopher Snake is one of the most commonly encountered non-venomous snakes in Arizona. They are also commonly mistaken as Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes due to their appearance.



In the Community: Summer Outreach Activities

This summer our Community Outreach Coordinators have been busy providing presentations for babysitting training courses at Northwest Fire District and Drexel Heights Fire District. During these presentations, our educators provide safety information related to medications, household products, and bites and stings to students in the course. The purpose of the training is to equip students with the knowledge they need to prevent a poisoning or envenomation while babysitting young children.

Upcoming Event: On Saturday July 26th the AZ Poison Center will be participating in a Back to School Resource Fair at Mountain View High School from 9am-12pm. We will be providing general prevention information and distributing educational materials.





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Staff Spotlight: Taylor Hedges, MPH, CHES Community Outreach Coordinator



Meet our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Taylor Hedges!

Taylor is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) with a dual degree in Health Promotion & Education and Psychology from Illinois State University. She has an MPH from the University of Arizona with a concentration in Health Behavior Health Promotion.

Through her role Taylor works to prevent poisoning through education and community engagement. This involves developing and implementing strategies to raise public awareness about poison risks and promote poison prevention, often in collaboration with other organizations.