

gency response concerning the treatment of patients who have had an exposure to a chemical, radiological, or biological agent.”

Pub. L. 108-194, § 2, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2888, provided that: “The Congress finds the following:

“(1) Poison control centers are our Nation’s primary defense against injury and deaths from poisoning. Twenty-four hours a day, the general public as well as health care practitioners contact their local poison centers for help in diagnosing and treating victims of poisoning and other toxic exposures.

“(2) Poisoning is the third most common form of unintentional death in the United States. In any given year, there will be between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 poison exposures. More than 50 percent of these exposures will involve children under the age of 6 who are exposed to toxic substances in their home. Poisoning accounts for 285,000 hospitalizations, 1,200,000 days of acute hospital care, and 13,000 fatalities annually.

“(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and increasing accessibility to poison control centers will promote the utilization of poison control centers, and reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other more costly health care services.

“(4) The tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the anthrax cases of October 2001, have dramatically changed our Nation. During this time period, poison centers in many areas of the country were answering thousands of additional calls from concerned residents. Many poison centers were relied upon as a source for accurate medical information about the disease and the complications resulting from prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

“(5) The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism recommended that the Poison Control Centers be used as a source of public information and public education regarding potential biological, chemical, and nuclear domestic terrorism.

“(6) The increased demand placed upon poison centers to provide emergency information in the event of a terrorist event involving a biological, chemical, or nuclear toxin will dramatically increase call volume.”

§ 300d-72. Promoting poison control center utilization

(a) In general

The Secretary shall carry out, and expand upon, a national media campaign to educate and support outreach to the public and health care providers about poisoning and toxic exposure prevention and the availability of poison control center resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number and other available communication technologies established, implemented, or maintained under section 300d-71(a) of this title.

(b) Contract with entity

The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with one or more public or private entities, including nationally recognized organizations in the field of poison control and national media firms, for the development and implementation of a nationwide poisoning and toxic exposure prevention and poison control center awareness campaign, which may include—

(1) the development and distribution of poisoning and toxic exposure prevention awareness materials, applicable public health emergency preparedness and response information, and poison control center awareness materials;

(2) television, radio, Internet, and newspaper public service announcements; and

(3) other activities to provide for public and professional awareness and education.

(c) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$800,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XII, § 1272, as added Pub. L. 108-194, § 3, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2889; amended Pub. L. 110-377, § 4(a), Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 4064; Pub. L. 113-77, § 3, Jan. 24, 2014, 128 Stat. 644; Pub. L. 116-94, div. N, title I, § 403(b), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3114.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2019—Pub. L. 116-94, § 403(b)(1), substituted “Promoting” for “Nationwide media campaign to promote” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-94, § 403(b)(2), inserted “and support outreach to” after “educate”, and substituted “poisoning and toxic exposure prevention” for “poison prevention” and “and other available communication technologies established, implemented, or maintained under” for “established under”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-94, § 403(b)(3)(A), substituted “nationwide poisoning and toxic exposure prevention” for “nationwide poison prevention” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-94, § 403(b)(3)(B), substituted “poisoning and toxic exposure prevention awareness materials, applicable public health emergency preparedness and response information, and poison control center” for “poison prevention and poison control center”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 116-94, § 403(b)(4)–(6), redesignated subsec. (d) as (c), substituted “2020 through 2024” for “2015 through 2019”, and struck out former subsec. (c). Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (c) read as follows: “The Secretary shall—

“(1) establish baseline measures and benchmarks to quantitatively evaluate the impact of the nationwide media campaign carried out under this section; and

“(2) on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an evaluation of the nationwide media campaign.”

2014—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 113-77, § 3(1), struck out comma after “Congress”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113-77, § 3(2), added subsec. (d) and struck out former subsec. (d). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009, and \$800,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.”

2008—Pub. L. 110-377 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section required the Secretary to establish a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison control and prevention and authorized appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2009.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-377, § 4(b), Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 4065, provided that: “The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall be effective on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 8, 2008] and shall apply to contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2009.”

§ 300d-73. Maintenance of the poison control center grant program

(a) Authorization of program

The Secretary shall award grants to poison control centers accredited under subsection (c)