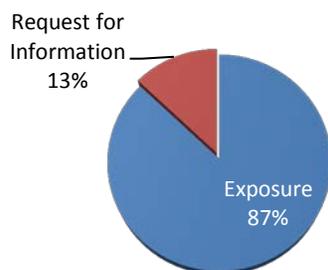


2013

The Alaska Poison Control System is a coordinated effort of a comprehensive poison management and poison prevention service. The Oregon Poison Center (OPC)¹ has been the designated regional Poison Center since 2001, providing professional expertise 24/7 to Alaska.

In 2013, the Poison Center received 7,133 total calls from the Alaska region. The vast majority of calls involved exposures to potentially toxic and poisonous substances. The remaining calls involved requests for information. Chart 1 indicates most calls were for immediate attention of an exposure to a poisoning.

Chart 1: Reason for Calls to Poison Center - Alaska 2013



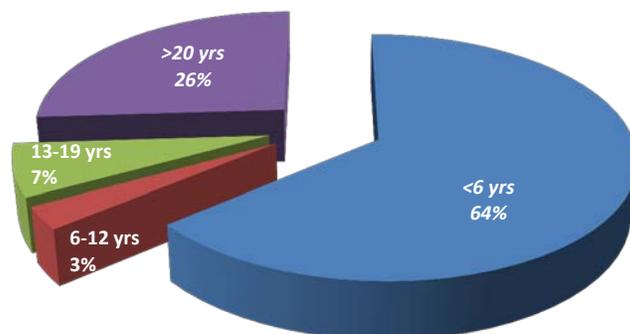
Most poison exposures (79%) were unintentional. Table 1 shows the top six calls concerning human exposures. The Center also received calls about other types of poisonings: medication side effects, carbon monoxide (CO), substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts. There were 91 CO exposures, almost doubling from 2012 numbers.

Table 1 Top Six Calls Concerning Human Exposures, Alaska, 2013

Substance	Number
Analgesics	1099
Cleaning Substances (household)	797
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	689
Foreign bodies/toys/miscellaneous	325
Antihistamines	309
Alcohols	302

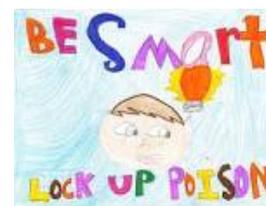
Pediatric unintentional poisoning continues to represent a significant proportion of calls from Alaska to the OPC, with **5148** cases reported to the Poison Center last year. Adults over 19 years of age represented **26%** of cases reflected in Chart 2. The most serious cases occurred in adolescents and adults.

Chart 2: Poison Exposures by Age - Alaska 2013



In 2013, the Alaska Poison Control System provided materials for 66 organizations, groups and individuals in 22 communities throughout Alaska. More than 35,000 pieces of educational materials (magnets, stickers, brochures, posters and kits) were distributed. The reach expands through various partners included EMS organizations, military, fire departments, police departments, hospitals, health clinics, pharmacies, education programs, CPR instructors, parish nurses, Red Cross, Head Start, nursing homes, scouting groups, and senior centers.

Poison centers are widely recognized for reducing health care costs through effective management of patients at home without a need for a referral to a health care facility.² Nationally, 80% of all poison exposures were safely managed over the phone and did not need medical treatment in a health care facility.



¹ The Oregon Poison Center is located on the campus of Oregon Health and Science University in Portland and provides 24-hour emergency poison control telephone services for Alaska.

² <http://news.uic.edu/study-poison-centers-benefit-patients-reduce-medical-costs>