

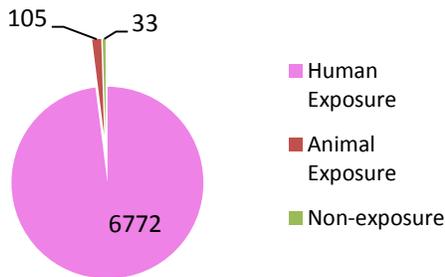


2014 Alaska Poison Prevention and Control Fact Sheet

The Oregon Poison Center (OPC) is a 24 hour emergency hotline and health information service for the public and health care providers. The phone lines are managed by Registered Nurses with advance training and certification in toxicology, along with physicians and other toxicology specialists. The Alaska Poison Control System (APCS) contracts with the OPC to manage calls from Alaska. APCS is managed through the state's Injury Prevention Program.

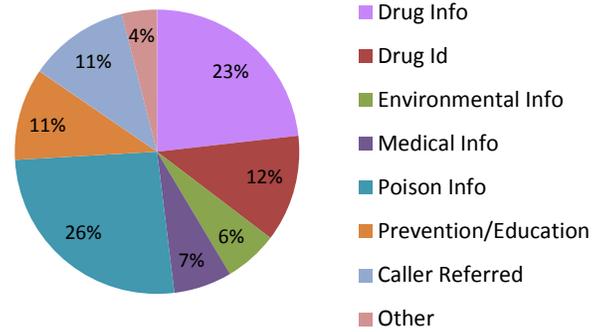
The number and reason for the calls are similar to the previous year. In 2014 there were 7,762 calls, a slight decrease from 2013 (7,133). Of the total 2014 calls, 98% (6,772) were confirmed as human exposure to a poisonous substance either intentional (self-harm) or unintentional (Figure 1). There were 105 calls concerning animal exposure. The total number of calls included 1,550 calls made by healthcare facilities, who also utilize the APCS.

Figure 1. Types of Calls



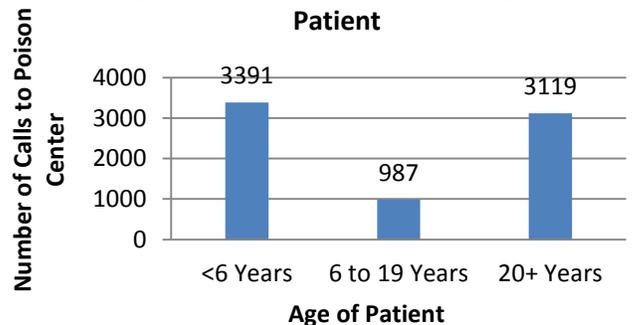
The Poison Hotline is also a valuable resource for disseminating educational information, such as drug interactions. In 2014 there were 852 (10%) informational calls (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Type of Informational Calls



Most of the calls made to OPC pertained to children under age 6 (54%). Poisoning exposures in this age bracket continues to represent the highest proportion of calls by Alaskans, but followed closely by adults over age 20 years, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Poison Exposures by Age of Patient



The most common poison substances that involved children under 6 years old were household cleaning items, care products such as hand sanitizer that causes irritation and dizziness, and hand creams that may cause an upset stomach. See Table 1 for the top 10 list of common substances by age group.

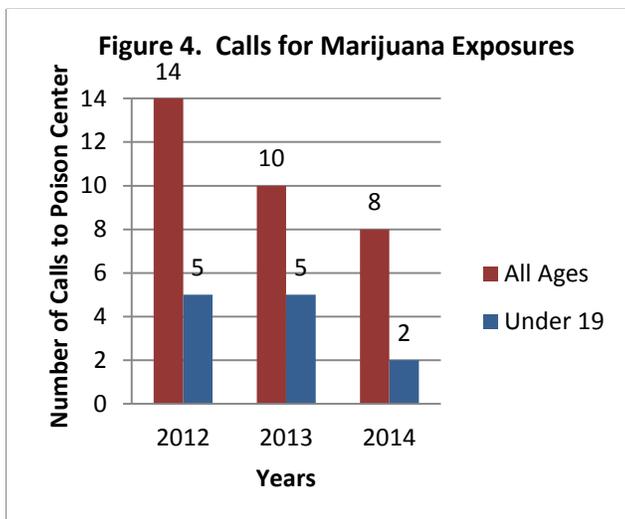


Table 1. Top Ten Calls Substance By Age Group 2014

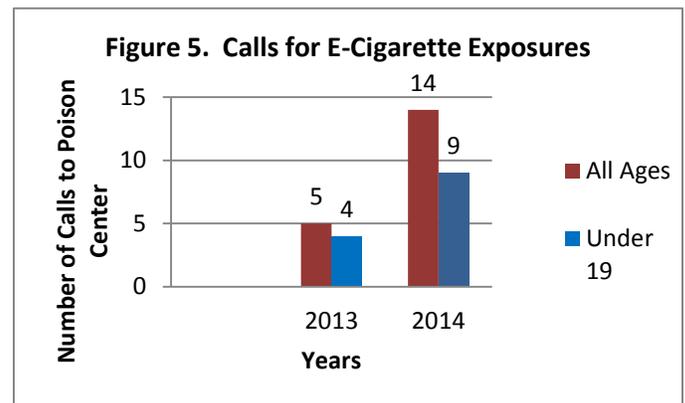
SUBSTANCE	CHILDREN UNDER 6	7 TO 19	ADULTS (20 +)
Alcohols			269
Analgesics	370	185	449
Anticonvulsants			106
Antidepressants		55	184
Antihistamines	112	59	128
Antimicrobials	79		
Cardiovascular Drugs			167
Chemicals			93
Cleaning Substances (Household)	417	48	189
Cold and Cough Preparations		38	
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	389	35	
Dietary supplements	155		
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous	197		
Plants	99	32	
Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics		38	242
Stimulants and Street Drugs		37	77
Topical Preparations	208		
Vitamins	186	29	

Although not listed in the data above, two additional substances are of interest in Alaska: e-cigarettes and recently legalized marijuana use (legal possession and sales begin in 2015 and 2016). Figure 4 indicates a downward trend for previous years in marijuana calls, which will be compared to future data.

There were 8 calls total to the Alaska Poison Center in 2014 regarding an exposure to marijuana, 2 out of the 8 were on behalf of a person under the age of 19. Marijuana should be treated as any other drug or medicine, and should be stored properly and kept out of reach of children.



E-cigarettes were first included in the National Poison Data System in 2013 as a sub-category under “Tobacco.” In 2014, there was a sharp spike in reported exposures (14) in which more than half (9) involved children under the age of 13.



The Alaska Poison Control program continues to disseminate materials related to poison prevention and information about the Poison Center’s services. In 2014, over 19,000 pieces of educational materials and resources were sent out to communities statewide. Healthcare facilities and tribal organizations requested most of the materials. Other requests came from pharmacies, emergency medical service (EMS) organizations, fire departments, Head Start, nursing homes, senior centers, day care centers, schools, Coast Guard, home improvement stores, Red Cross, scouting groups, and private citizens.