



2007 Alaska Poison Prevention and Control Fact Sheet



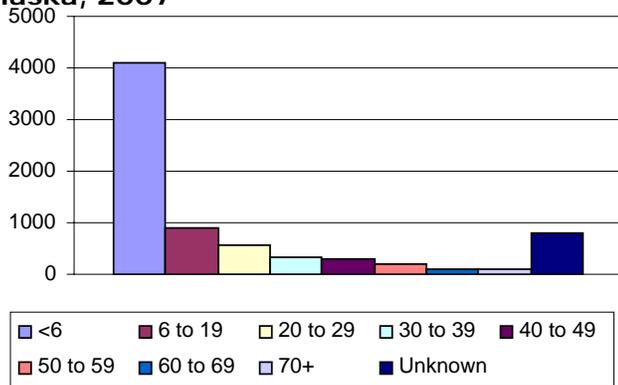
In 2007, calls to the Oregon Poison Center (OPC)* has slightly increased from last year. This year there were 9,559 calls, of which 7,568 (79%) were confirmed as human exposure to a poisonous substance either intentional (self-harm) or unintentional. Most human exposure calls concerned analgesics (15%), followed by household cleaning substances (10%) and personal care products including cosmetics (9%) (Table 1). An additional 207 calls were received concerning animal exposures to confirmed or potentially poisonous substances.

Table 1. Top Ten Calls Concerning Human Exposure, Alaska, 2007

Substance	Number
Analgesics	1,107
Cleaning Substances (Household)	745
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	670
Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics	393
Topical Preparations	360
Alcohols	333
Cold and Cough Preparations	317
Antidepressants	309
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous	309
Cardiovascular Drugs	268

Most calls (67%) made to OPC were concerning children under age 6 (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Poisoning Patients by Age, Alaska, 2007



The most common poisonous substances that involved children under 6 years old were personal care products such as hand sanitizer (that may caused irritation and dizziness); and hand creams (that may cause an upset stomach.) Table 2 lists

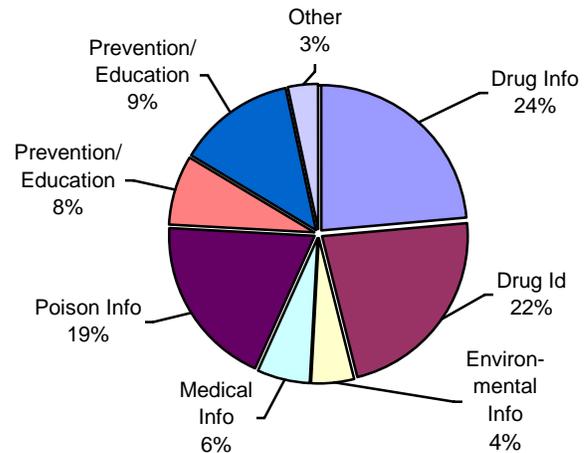
the top ten calls concerning children <6 years of age.

Table 2. Top Ten Calls Concerning Children under 6 Years of Age, Alaska, 2007

Substance	Number
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	553
Cleaning Substances (Household)	479
Analgesics	431
Topical Preparations	305
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous	235
Cold and Cough Preparations	196
Vitamins	167
Plants	153
Gastrointestinal Preparations	121
Antimicrobials	117

Twenty percent of all calls included requests for prevention information and materials (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Information Call Types, Alaska, 2007



The Alaska Poison System Educator received over 100 requests for poison prevention information during 2007. Requests were made from pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, EMS organizations, fire departments, healthcare providers, Head Start, nursing homes, senior centers, schools, Coast Guard, home improvement stores, Red Cross, scouting groups, and private citizens. Prevention and education materials included magnets and stickers with the national poison hotline number, brochures, posters, and preschool education video programs.

For more information, contact Maria Bailey at 907-465-4170 or email maria.bailey@alaska.gov

*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.