

# 2017 REPORT

Serving Oregon, Alaska & Guam



**OREGON  
POISON  
CENTER**

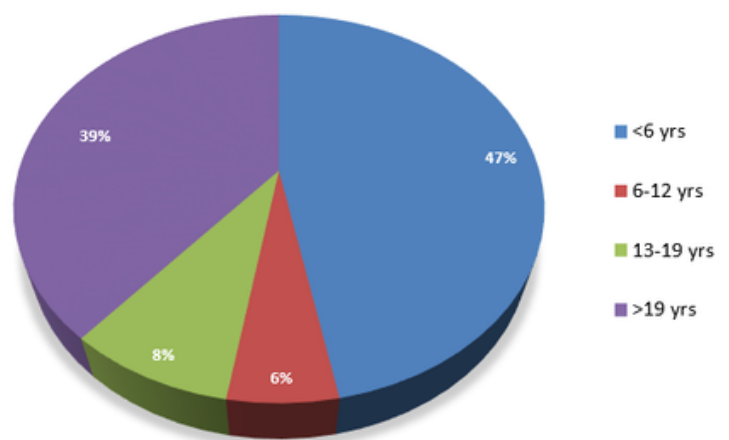


In 2017, the Oregon Poison Center (OPC) managed 49,227 cases from throughout our region. Of these, 43,371 were about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (“exposures”).

## WHO CALLS THE POISON CENTER?

The poison center takes calls from and manages cases about people of all ages and offers service in 150 languages. In addition to receiving calls from the public, the poison center also receives calls from health care providers, emergency responders and law enforcement officers. In fact, 22 % of calls were from health care providers. In 2017, 47% of exposure cases managed by the poison center involved children younger than six, but as in previous years the more serious cases occurred in adolescents and adults.

2017 exposures by age



**Did you know? Poison Centers are managed by doctors, nurses and pharmacists who have extensive training in poison prevention and treatment.**

# ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO PEOPLE CALL THE POISON CENTER?

Top Human Exposure Substance Categories* by Age Group, 2017							
All Human exposures		Young children (<6 yrs)		Children/Teens (6-19 yrs)		Adults (>=20yrs)	
Analgesics	6,350	Cosmetics and Personal Care products	2,638	Analgesics	1,434	Analgesics	2,907
Cosmetics and Personal Care products	3,545	Household Cleaning Substances	2,121	Antidepressants	857	Sedatives, Hypnotics and Antipsychotics	2,104
Household Cleaning Substances	3,478	Analgesics	1,992	Antihistamines	557	Antidepressants	1,996
Antidepressants	3,139	Foreign Bodies, Toys, Misc.	1,322	Stimulants and Street Drugs	399	Cardiovascular Drugs	1,720
Sedatives, Hypnotics and Antipsychotics	2,653	Plants	1,029	Cold and cold preparations	399	Alcohols	1,520
Cardiovascular Drugs	2,414	Dietary Supplements/herbals /homeopathic	983	Sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics	381	Anticonvulsants	1,095

\*Substance Categories based on case mentions, as patients may be exposed to multiple substances

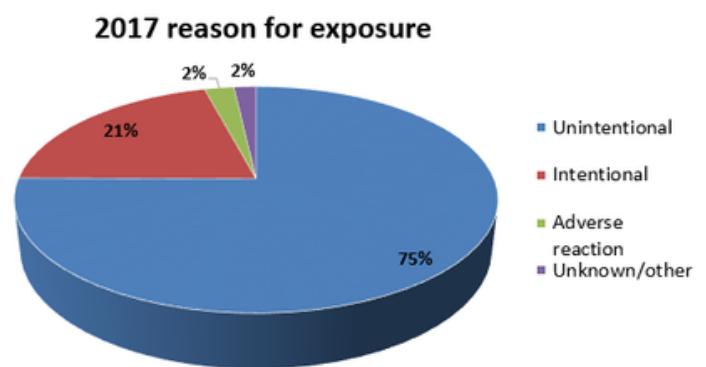
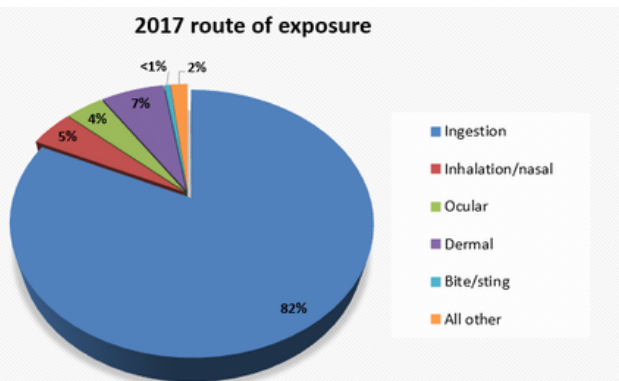
## Where do the most poison exposures occur?

In 2017, 90% of human exposures occurred at a residence, but they can also occur in the workplace, schools, healthcare facilities, and others. Nearly 67% of the emergency cases reported to the poison center were treated at home, saving millions of dollars in medical expenses. In fact, poison centers save Americans more than \$1.8 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity!



## Why do people call the poison center?

People call the poison center when they think they may have been exposed to something poisonous. People also call the poison center for information about medications, pesticide use, workplace chemicals, bites and stings, and many more topics. In 2017, 82 % of poison exposures involved people who swallowed a drug or potential poison. However, people were also exposed through the lungs, skin, eyes, and in other ways. Most poison exposures were unintentional (75%). Poison centers also received calls about other types of poisonings: medication side effects, substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts.



**Did you know? in 2017 higher call volumes were observed in the warmer months compared to colder months.**