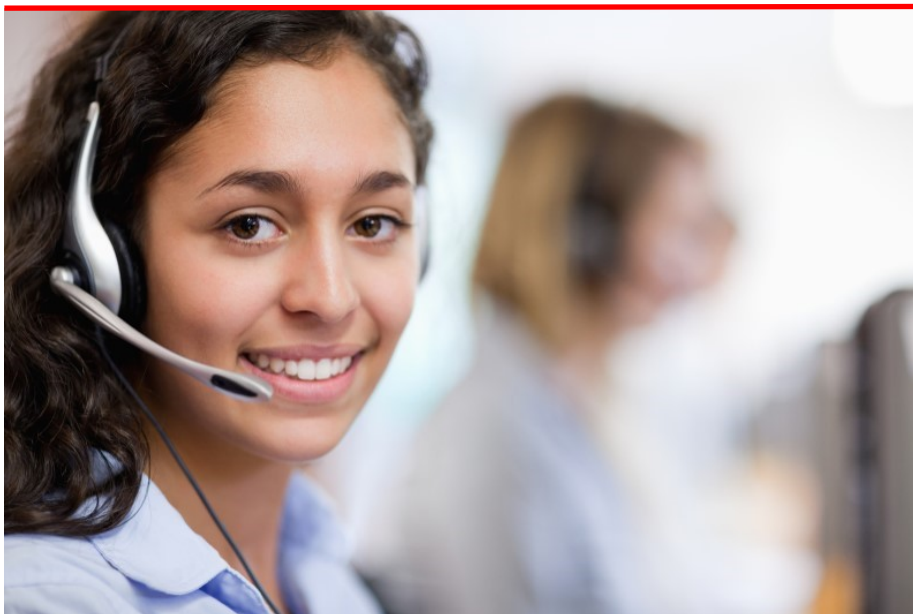


# 2020 REPORT

Serving Oregon, Alaska & Guam



**OREGON  
POISON  
CENTER**

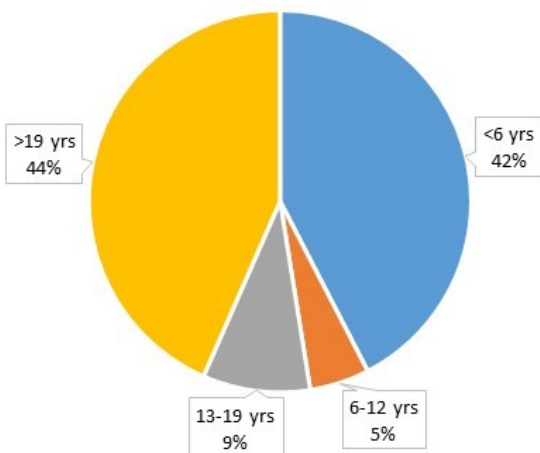


In 2020, the Oregon Poison Center managed 52,471 cases from residents, healthcare providers and others throughout our region. Of these, 45,169 calls were about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (“exposures”). In 2020, 76% of calls came from people in Oregon, 12% of calls came from people in Alaska, and <1% came from people in Guam and nearby islands. The remaining calls managed by the Oregon Poison Center came from callers outside of our service area.

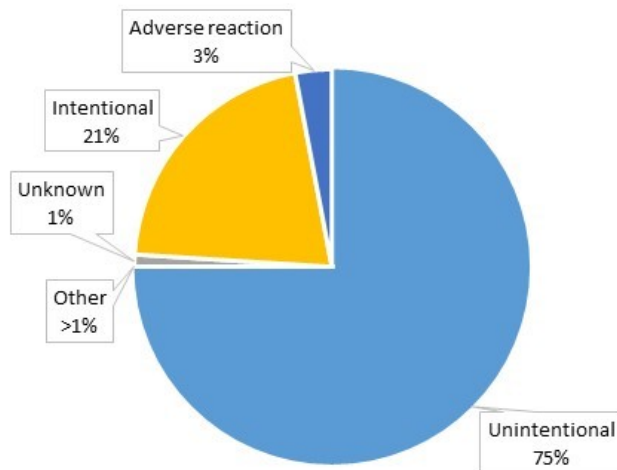
## Who called the Oregon Poison Center in 2020?

In 2020, 56% of calls to the Oregon Poison Center were about exposures or possible exposures in children and teens under the age of 19. The remaining 44% of calls were about adults. Most poison exposures are unintentional (75%) but 21% of calls in 2020 were intentional; attributed to suspected suicide, misuse and abuse.

2020 exposures by age, percent



2020 exposures by reason, percent



## Did you know?

Everyday products can become poisonous if used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person. While the majority of cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center involve children, toxic exposures also occur in teens and adults. These cases are typically more severe because of the amount and type of substance they are exposed to.

## Common substances involved with calls to the poison center

Top Exposure Categories by Age, 2020								
	Total/All Ages		Children <=5		Children/Teens 6-19		Adults Age >=20	
Rank	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count
1	Analgesics	6,140	Cosmetics/personal care products	2,265	Analgesics	1,444	Analgesics	3,162
2	Cleaning substances (household)	4,063	Cleaning substances (household)	2,002	Antidepressants	949	Antidepressants	2,237
3	Antidepressants	3,500	Analgesics	1,523	Antihistamines	540	Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	2,081
4	Cosmetics/personal care products	3,489	Foreign bodies/toys/miscellaneous	1,419	Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	421	Cardiovascular drugs	1,979
5	Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	2,666	Dietary supplements/herbals/homeopathic	1,401	Stimulants and street drugs	420	Alcohols	1,692

## COVID-19

### Health care provider hotline, cleaning product exposures

The emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 increased demands on health care workers and identified unique poison risks related to the pandemic.

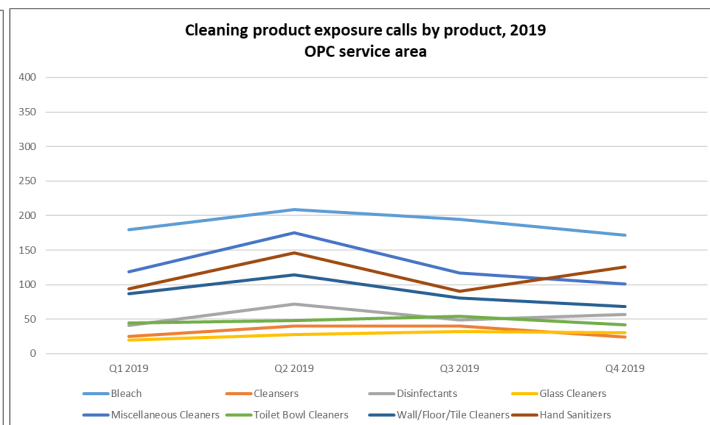
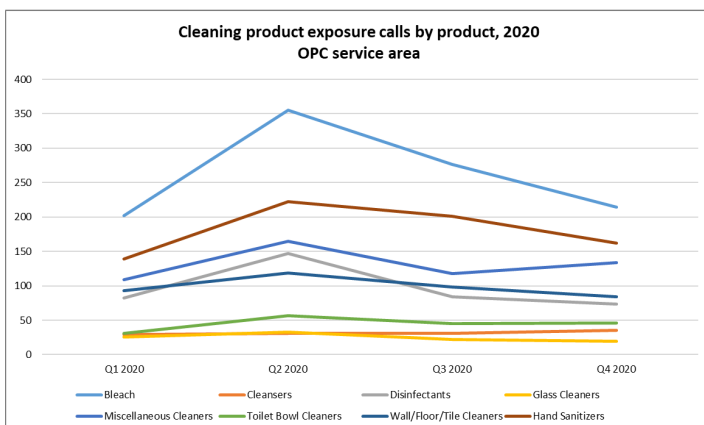
From March to September, the Oregon Poison Center staffed a COVID-19 hotline for Oregon health care providers. In addition to regular call volume, Oregon Poison Center specialists answered 2,760 calls about COVID-19 testing, treatment, and supplies, providing a needed service for healthcare providers in Oregon during the early months of the pandemic.

### COVID-19 Hotline for Health Care Providers, MAR-SEP

2,760 Total calls

91 Single daily high, 3/12/20

During routine surveillance in the spring of 2020, poison centers became aware of an increase in exposure calls related to household cleaners, disinfectants and hand sanitizers. Nationally, calls to U.S. poison centers about these product exposures increased by 20.4% and 16.4% when compared to the same period in 2019 and 2018, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Similar trends occurred locally with calls about these products to the Oregon Poison Center peaking between April and June of 2020. Notable increases occurred in exposure calls about four types of products: bleach, hand sanitizer, disinfectants and wall/floor/tile cleaner.



<sup>1</sup> Chang A, Schnall AH, Law R, et al. Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 – National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:496–498. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6916e1>