

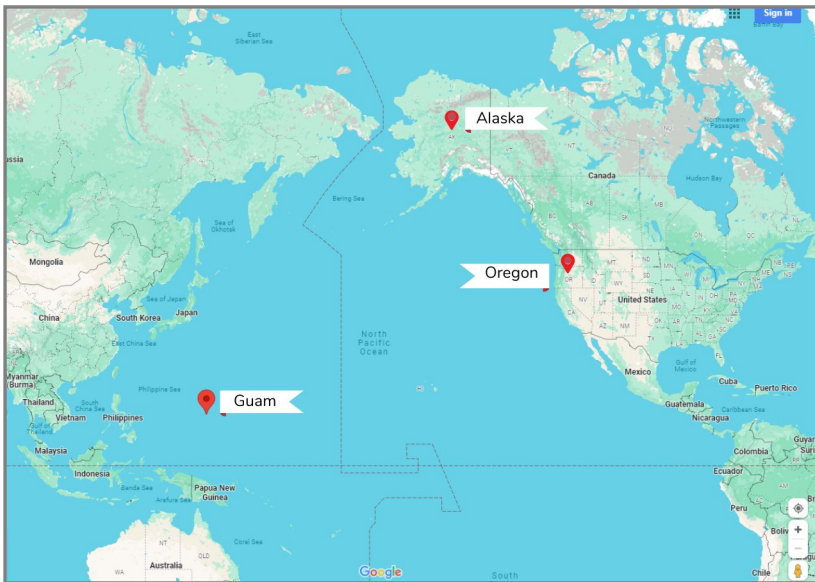
2023 REPORT

Serving Oregon, Alaska & Guam



In 2023, the Oregon Poison Center managed 47,954 cases from residents, healthcare providers and other callers throughout our service area. Of these, 43,801 cases were about people coming into contact with dangerous substances or potential poisons (“exposures”). Confirmed non-exposures and “information calls” (poison-related questions, administrative, prevention/education, etc.) made up the remaining cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center.

Who called the poison center in 2023?



The Oregon Poison Center serves more than 5 million people in a diverse geographic region encompassing Oregon, Alaska and Guam.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of calls to the Oregon Poison Center came from people in Oregon, 14% came from people in Alaska, and <1% came from people in Guam and other nearby islands. The remaining calls came from people outside our service area. The individual counties with the highest volume of calls in 2023 include: Multnomah, Washington, Lane, Clackamas, and Marion Counties in Oregon, followed by Anchorage County in Alaska, respectively.

Exposures, by Age

In 2023, 54% of the poisoning cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center occurred in children and teens under the age of 20. The remaining 46% of poisoning cases in 2023 were about adults.

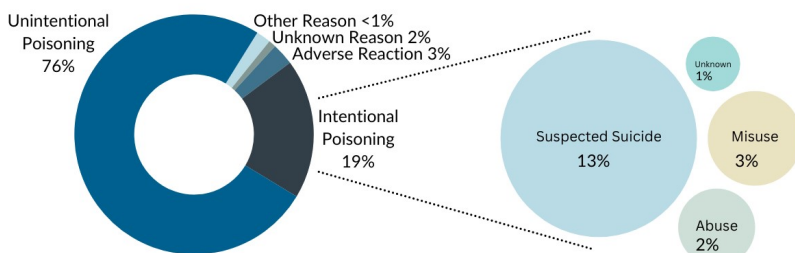
Of the more than 23,000 pediatric poisoning cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center in 2023, almost 17,000 poisoned patients were under 6 years of age. One and two-year old’s constitute the majority of this group, representing more than 10,000 cases.

While young children experience the most poisonings, poisonings among teens and adults tend to be more serious due to the types of substances and the quantity of the substances they are exposed to: medicine, alcohol and illicit drugs. See p. 2 for common substances involved with poisonings, by age.

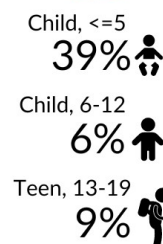
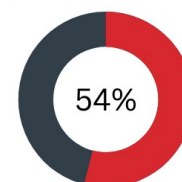
Exposures, by Reason

Most poison exposures in 2023 were accidents, or unintentional poisonings. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center were coded this way, meaning someone came in contact with a poison in a way they did not intend to. Adverse reactions to drugs and food made up 3% of cases, unintentional poisonings of unknown reasons made up 2% of cases and unintentional—other reasons made up <1% of calls.

Nineteen percent (19%) of poisoning cases managed by the Oregon Poison Center in 2023 were intentional; attributed to suspected suicide (13%), misuse (3%), abuse (2%) and other intentional—unknown reasons (<1%).

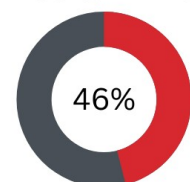


Children <=19



*Child, unknown age, <1%

Adults >= 20



*Adult, unknown age, 5%

Common substances involved with poisonings

Top Exposure Categories by Age, 2023								
Rank	Total/All Ages		Children <=5		Children/Teens 6-19		Adults Age >=20	
	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count
1	Analgesics	6,384	Cleaning substances (household)	1,659	Analgesics	1,433	Analgesics	3,321
2	Cleaning substances (household)	3,377	Cosmetics/personal care products	1,636	Antidepressants	889	Antidepressants	2,280
3	Antidepressants	3,405	Analgesics	1,606	Antihistamines	664	Cardiovascular drugs	2,248
4	Cosmetics/personal care products	2,666	Foreign bodies/toys/miscellaneous	1,408	Stimulants and street drugs	468	Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	1,814
5	Cardiovascular drugs	2,922	Dietary supplements/herbals/homeopathic	1,338	Cardiovascular drugs	357	Alcohols	1,645

Fentanyl cases increase in 2023

In 2023, 399 fentanyl poisoning cases were managed by the Oregon Poison Center; and increase from 358 in 2022, 112 in 2021 and 33 in 2020. Amid the growing public health crisis, researchers¹ at the Oregon Poison Center reported a dramatic increase in cases of young children exposed to fentanyl in 2023. The poison center managed 16 cases of illicit fentanyl exposure in children younger than 6 years old in 2023, an increase from just 2 in 2021 and 0 in 2020. Most children exposed to fentanyl experienced severe effects and were 2 years of age or younger. Most of the children were exposed to fentanyl in their homes, highlighting the need for education and awareness about preventing unintentional pediatric drug exposures where children live.

1 Temple C, Hendrickson RG. Increasing Exposure of Young Children to Illicit Fentanyl in the United States. *N Engl J Med* 2024;390:956-957. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2313270.

How is poison center data used?

Poison center data is used in the treatment of the individual poisoned patient, but it also serves a unique public health purpose. Collectively, poison center data can reveal important information about what is happening in our communities locally and nationally.



Poison center data is **confidential** and HIPAA protected.



Poison center data is **timely**. Near real-time data detects abnormalities in the illicit drug supply & alerts officials to public health events.



Poison center data is **dynamic**. Data is sent to the national database (NPDS) & department of health every 9 minutes.



Poison center data is **researched**. Data can identify trends, reveal successful treatment options & poison prevention recommendations.



Poison center staff are skilled at providing treatment advice over the phone. Our service reduces the burden on the healthcare system by keeping patients out of hospitals who don't need to be there.

Poison centers save money

In 2023, the Oregon Poison Center kept **93%** of home callers calling about accidental exposures, at home and out of hospitals. Our expert treatment advice saves families money and reduces the burden on the healthcare system. Based on the cost of an average ED visit, the Oregon Poison Center saved families an estimated **\$23 million** in health care costs in 2023.



A caregiver comforts and infant. People of all ages receive life-saving treatment advice from the poison center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.