2020 Poison Center Data Snapshot

The American Association of Poison Control Centers represents the 55 U.S. Poison Control Centers (PCC). PCCs provide real-time poison exposure education, and prevention services via telephone, 24/7/365. PCCs employ doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who have specialized training in poisoning prevention and treatment.

U.S. Poison Centers
- responded to 2,128,198 human exposures cases
- on average, receiving an exposure case every 15 seconds
- served all 50 states, Washington D.C., U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and 3 Pacific Jurisdictions

COVID-19 Trends
- 26,055 confirmed COVID-19 virus exposures reported to U.S. Poison Centers
- 155,991 *Exposures to Cleaners & Disinfectants
- 37,484 Exposures to Hand Sanitizers
- 67,982 **Exposures to COVID-19 Treatment/Preventatives

Top 5 Exposure Substance Categories

- Analgesics: 10.3%
- Cleaning Substances (Household): 8.4%
- Cosmetics/Personal Care Products: 6.5%
- Antidepressants: 5.3%
- Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics: 4.9%

88% OF ALL CASES WERE SINGLE SUBSTANCE EXPOSURES

Distribution of Human Exposure Cases

Who Was Exposed?

- <= 5: 77%
- 6-12: 18%
- 13-19: 5%

Age Groups of Cases

- 93% OF CASES OCCURRED IN A RESIDENCE
- 69% OF CASES WERE MANAGED ON SITE WHERE EXPOSURE OCCURRED

The majority of cases were a result of an unintentional exposure to a substance.

- Unintentional: 77%
- Intentional: 18%
- Adverse reaction, Other, Unknown: 5%

13% OF ALL EXPOSURES WERE SUSPECTED SUICIDE

* Cleaners [ammonia, general, industrial, wall/floor/tile], bleaches, disinfectants, and rubbing alcohols
** Aquarium parasiticides, azithromycin, chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine, colloidal silver, colchicine, COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies, COVID-19 vaccines, famotidine, antiretrovirals, and ivermectin

References: