

Poison Prevention Press

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MPC Poison Safety Info On the Go

Get important poison safety tips and other information wherever you are.

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e-Antidote blog:

blog.mdpoison.com

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Program 1-800-222-1222 into your mobile phones. Text "POISON" to 797979 and save the contact card.

Did you know that...

- Every dollar invested in the poison center system saves \$13.39 in health care costs?
- 60% of cases were managed at the site of the caller (home, work, school) in 2018?
- 71% of cases in 2018 were unintentional?

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Top 3 Poisons of 2018: Children

In 2018, we handled about 39,000 cases. Roughly 31,000 of those cases were exposures in humans; the rest were about animals or general calls for information. We are going to look at the most common substances mentioned in the calls we receive about children, broken down by age group.

Young Children (under 6 years old) accounted for 38.9% of cases in 2018.

#1: Cosmetics and Personal Care Products— All homes have these products and are often stored out in the open. In many of these cases, children only get a small taste of the product.

#2: Household Cleaning Products— These products should be stored in a secure location and not left unattended.

#3: Analgesics (Pain Relievers) – These exposures include children who get into medicine on their own, whether from a medicine cabinet, countertop, or in a purse or bag, as well as dosing errors made by caregivers.

Tweens (6-12 years old) accounted for 7.2% of exposures in 2018.

#1: Cosmetic and Personal Care Products— Common products are hand sanitizer, soap, sunscreen, mouthwash, and toothpaste. These are ingested because of dares, curiosity, or general misuse.

#2: Foreign Bodies— Items commonly swallowed include toys, glow products, silica gel, or coins. Sometimes these are ingested on dares and can be dangerous.

#3: Analgesics— These exposures are generally dosing errors. As children become more independent, they try to self-administer medication. It is recommended that parents supervise medicine use during the tween years.

Teens (13-19 years old) accounted for 8.9% of exposures in 2018.

#1 Analgesics— These exposures involve dosing errors or teens intentionally trying to hurt themselves. Read the label and follow the directions.

#2 Antidepressants— Due to stress teens experience from school, family, and/or social interactions, medicines used to treat depression and anxiety are commonly prescribed to teens. These exposures are from dosing errors and attempts at self-harm.

#3 Stimulants and Street Drugs— The two major drugs that account for exposures in this age group are ADHD (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder) medicines and marijuana. The reasons for ADHD exposures are dosing errors and misuse of the medicine. The reasons for marijuana exposures are teens trying to get high and peer pressure.

More detailed information on the above exposures can be found on eAntidote at blog.mdpoison.com. If you suspect a child has been exposed to a potential poison, call 1-800-222-1222 right away. Our poison experts are available 24/7/365 at no charge to you.