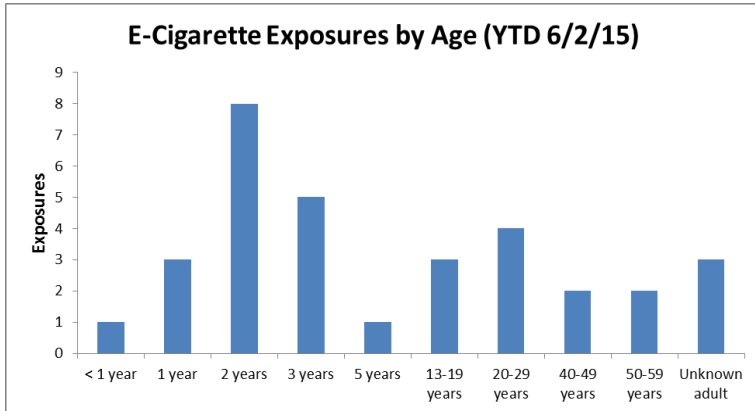
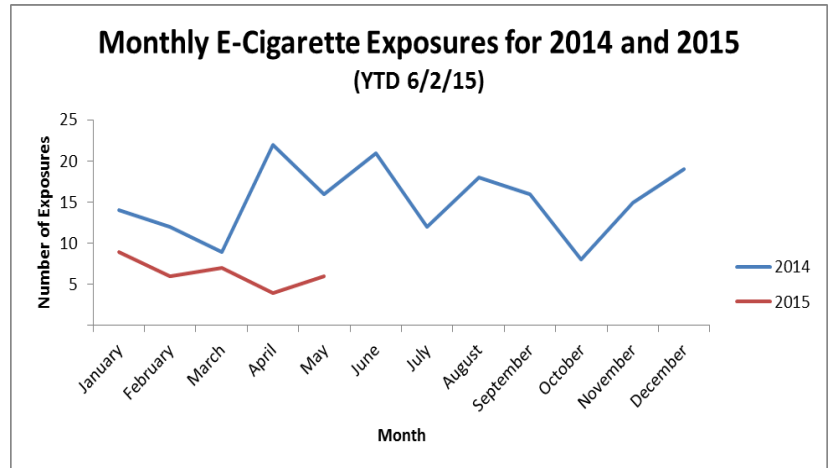


Washington State recently had its first death due to intentional liquid nicotine ingestion in a young adult. This unfortunate event serves as wake up call for many people that liquid nicotine products, when used incorrectly, can produce harm and fatal effects. The change in call volume on e-cigarettes may be a result of the combined educational efforts between the Washington Department of Health, Safe Kids WA, and the Washington Poison Center. Julie Alonso, Director of Safe Kids Washington, commented recently on this change.

"I am delighted to see a reduction in pediatric exposures to liquid nicotine. Safe Kids Washington, in partnership with the Poison Center, has been working diligently to raise awareness with law makers and in communities across the state of this lurking danger within homes. Education is only one step in preventing unintentional poisonings and keeping kids safe, however. There is still work to be done to protect all kids."



E-cigarette exposures and poisonings in children continue to account for the majority of total e-cigarette calls into the Poison Center. **Of the 32 total cases so far this year, 21 (66%) are in children.** All the pediatric exposures originated in the home with the exception of one case occurring in a school. Half of the calls resulted in minimal toxicity such as nausea and vomiting that required little to no follow-up from the poison specialists. The most common situations in which children were exposed included playing with vape pens, opening the liquid nicotine bottle and getting it on their hands, or drinking directly from liquid nicotine bottles.

In Olympia, there are currently three House bills being discussed in the special session regarding e-cigarettes. These focus on the packaging and labeling of e-cigarette products, age restrictions and taxation of vapor products. King, Pierce, Grant and most recently Clark County have local ordinances restricting the use of vape products in public spaces. Snohomish County is currently considering such an ordinance. More information on the local ordinance in Clark County can be found at: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/community/tobaccofree/publicsmoking.html>

Proposed Bill	Summary
HB 1645	Misdemeanor to sell under 18 years of age; prohibited on school and campus; license sellers; labeling and packaging
HB 2211	Tax on vapor products
HB 1458	Raise age to purchase to 19 years of age

***Disclaimer: Reporting of exposures to the Poison Center is voluntary and not mandated by law. As such, WAPC data describes the number of calls called into the Poison Center and most likely is an underrepresentation of the true occurrence of any one substance. All calls to the Washington Poison Center are free and confidential.**

For further information, contact Dr. Garrard at AGarrard@wapc.org or 206-517-2356.