The following data compares poison exposures involving nicotine that were reported to the Washington Poison Center during the first 9 months of 2020 (January 1 – September 30) to those reported in the first 9 months of 2019. Some cases may involve more than one type of nicotine exposure.

Washington State’s “Tobacco 21” law went into effect January 1, 2020, making it illegal to sell tobacco and vaping products to people under the age of 21. While we cannot draw specific conclusions from our data, this law – along with other strategies – may have contributed to the decrease in nicotine exposures. This trend offers encouragement during the heightened concern of substance use to cope with increased isolation and stress during COVID-19 pandemic.

Disclaimer: Reporting of exposures to the Washington Poison Center is voluntary and not mandated by law. As such, these data reflect only the exposures reported to the Washington Poison Center, and are most likely an underrepresentation of the true occurrence of any one substance.