THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), while one of many chemical compounds in cannabis products (i.e., marijuana, pot, weed), is the main contributor to cannabis intoxication. Reports to the Washington Poison Center of THC exposures are showing increasing trends in unintentional exposures in young children and intentional exposures in adolescents and adults. While effects from the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be definitively tied to these increases, pandemic-related conditions like stress, mental health, self-treatment, and increased access have likely been contributing factors.

The following data compares exposures involving THC 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 THC exposure. Exposures reported as CBD-only (another chemical compound in cannabis) are not included.

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.

Since January 1, 2020, when the poison center was called first, 73% of patients with THC exposures were managed at home by WAPC specialists. Keeping these patients out of the emergency department saved approximately $266,000 patient dollars.

**This graph does not include all exposure reasons**  
¹ Misuse is defined as inappropriate use

The most common clinical effects reported were vomiting, altered mental status, lethargy, fast heart rate, & chest pain