

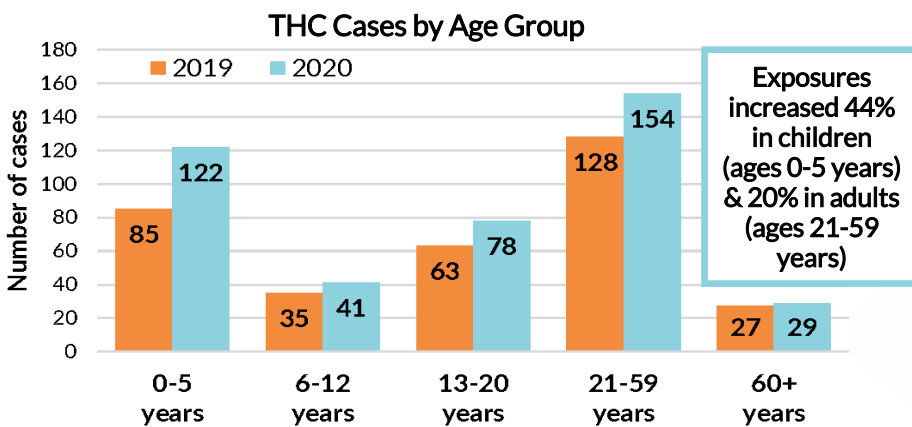
Exposure Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Special Focus: Cannabis (THC)

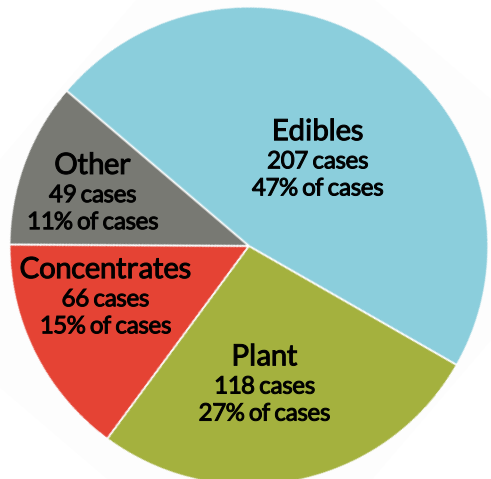
Issued December 8, 2020 | Contact mryuk@wapc.org with questions

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.

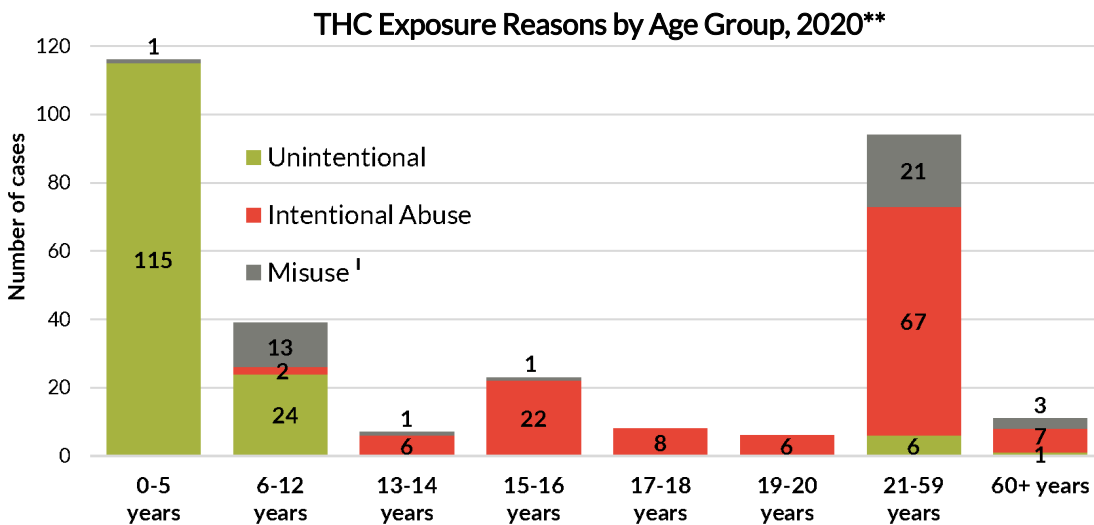


THC Exposures by Formulation, 2020



*Other includes pill/capsule, topical, or unknown formulations

In 2020, at least 49 cases in children ages 0-5 years involved the cannabis product being stored within sight of the child. Safely store cannabis out of sight, out of reach, and preferably locked up.



**This graph does not include all exposure reasons

¹ Misuse is defined as inappropriate use

As of 2017, this logo is required on all cannabis edible packaging



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

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.

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.