The Washington Poison Center (WAPC) saw a decrease in the total number of calls related to e-cigarette exposures in WA in 2016 (n=104) compared to 2015 (n=152). WAPC continues to implement public health interventions for prevention of unintentional toxic exposures and promote public awareness of their dangers with unsafe use. Despite the overall decrease in calls, children ages 0-3 years are still disproportionately affected and account for about 82% of the total cases.

Age Distribution of E-Cigarette Exposure in WA for 2015-2016

About 67% (n=70) of exposures occurred in the caller’s own home, which suggests that public health interventions should continue to focus on safe storage, use, and packaging. Counties with highest e-cigarette exposures (Spokane, Pierce, King, and Snohomish) have shown a decrease compared to 2015. The majority of exposures could safely be managed at home (79%, n=55) with follow-up from the WAPC.

Common Symptoms For E-Cigarette:
1. Persistent Vomiting
2. Drowsiness/Lethargy
3. Eye Irritation/Pain
4. Nausea
5. Coughing/Choking
6. Agitation/Irritability

Poison Center calls were about e-liquids described as:
- Ingestion (n=124)
- Inhalation/Nasal (69%)
- Ocular (6%)
- Dermal (19%)

How are people getting into E-cigarettes?

The FDA now regulates all tobacco products including e-cigarettes. It is unclear how the federal regulations will affect the WA RCW on required package information and regulation. Stay tuned for updates!

*Disclaimer: Reporting of exposures to the Poison Center is voluntary and not mandated by law. As such, WAPC data describes the number of calls made 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

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