Exposure Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Issued May 19, 2020 | Contact mryuk@wapc.org with questions

The following data compares poison exposures reported to the Washington Poison Center during the first 118 days of 2020 (January 1—April 27) to the first 118 days of 2019 (January 1—April 28).

- **Exposures from misuse increased 53%**
- **Total suspected suicide cases (from all substances) increased 10% from 2019 to 2020.**
- **87% of patients exposed to hand sanitizer, household cleaning products, bleach, & rubbing alcohol were managed at home by WAPC specialists.** Keeping patients out of the emergency department saved $2,689,500 patient dollars.

**Total events: 38**
- In Person Education: 28
- Media Feature/Interview: 23
- Webinar: 8

**Public Health Education Events**

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.

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