

In 2023, the Washington Poison Center (WAPC) handled 119,731 phone calls and managed 62,163 cases, over 328 calls and 170 cases per day.

There were 55,517 human poison exposures, with children five and younger accounting for 38% of all poison exposure cases. Human exposures with more serious outcomes (moderate, major, or death) accounted for 10.34% of all exposures. There were over 6,486 information calls. Slightly more than 53% of calls regarding children under 6 were for non-medications.

While 80% of poisonings were unintentional; nearly 19 % were intentional, with suicidal intent suspected in 12% of cases. Of the 10,482 medication errors, 14 % were in children under 6 years old and over 28 % were in adults 60 years and older.

Top 10 Exposures by Substance Major Category in 2023

All Ages	Adults 60 Years & Older	Adults 20 Years & Older
1 Analgesics	1 Cardiovascular drugs	1 Analgesics
2 Cleaning substances (household)	2 Analgesics	2 Antidepressants
3 Antidepressants	3 Hormones and hormone antagonists	3 Cardiovascular drugs
4 Cardiovascular drugs	4 Antidepressants	4 Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics
5 Cosmetics/personal care products	5 Anticonvulsants	5 Cleaning substances (household)
6 Antihistamines	6 Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	6 Alcohols
7 Foreign bodies/toys	7 Cleaning substances (household)	7 Anticonvulsants
8 Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	8 Anticoagulants	8 Antihistamines
9 Dietary supplements	9 Miscellaneous drugs	9 Hormones and hormone antagonists
10 Alcohols	10 Antimicrobials	10 Stimulants and street drugs

Teens 13-19 Years	Children 6-12 Years	Children 0-5 Years
1 Analgesics	1 Foreign bodies/toys	1 Analgesics
2 Antidepressants	2 Analgesics	2 Cleaning substances (household)
3 Antihistamines	3 Cosmetics/personal care products	3 Cosmetics/personal care products
4 Stimulants and street drugs	4 Plants	4 Foreign bodies/toys
5 Sedative/hypnotics/antipsychotics	5 Stimulants and street drugs	5 Dietary supplements
6 Cold and cough preparations	6 Antihistamines	6 Vitamins
7 Cardiovascular drugs	7 Dietary supplements	7 Plants
8 Alcohols	8 Cleaning substances (household)	8 Topical preparations
9 Cleaning substances (household)	9 Cardiovascular drugs	9 Antihistamines
10 Anticonvulsants	10 Cold and cough preparations	10 Pesticides

Top 10 Exposures by Substance Generic Name in 2023

All Ages	Adults 60 Years & Older	Adults 20 Years & Older
1 Ibuprofen	1 Beta Blocker	1 Ethanol (Beverage)
2 Ethanol (Beverage)	2 Calcium Antagonist	2 Atypical Antipsychotic
3 Melatonin	3 Antihyperlipidemic	3 Beta Blocker
4 Atypical Antipsychotic	4 Angiotensin Receptor Blocker	4 Benzodiazepine
5 Diphenhydramine	5 Other Type of Anticoagulant	5 Acetaminophen: Adult
6 Acetaminophen: Adult	6 ACE Inhibitor	6 Trazodone
7 Acetaminophen: Unknown	7 Atypical Antipsychotic	7 Bupropion
8 Beta Blocker	8 Gabapentin	8 Acetaminophen: Unknown
9 Other Non-Drug Substance	9 Ethanol (Beverage)	9 Gabapentin
10 Benzodiazepine	10 Antibiotic	10 Diphenhydramine
Teens 13-19 Years	Children 6-12 Years	Children 0-5 Years
1 Ibuprofen	1 Melatonin	1 Melatonin
2 Acetaminophen: Unknown	2 Other Foreign Body	2 Ibuprofen
3 Diphenhydramine	3 Toy	3 Other Foreign Body
4 Fluoxetine	4 Ibuprofen	4 Acetaminophen: Pediatric
5 Acetaminophen: Adult	5 Other Non-Drug Substance	5 Toy
6 Sertraline	6 Methylphenidate	6 Diaper Care/Rash Product
7 Hydroxyzine	7 Glow Product	7 Multi Vitamin-Tablet: Child
8 Atypical Antipsychotic	8 Food Products	8 Cream/Lotion/Make-Up
9 Ethanol (Beverage)	9 Diphenhydramine	9 Hand Sanitizers: Ethanol Based
10 Trazodone	10 Antihypertensive (Excluding Diuretic)	10 Desiccant