

In 2021, the Washington Poison Center (WAPC) handled 122,111 phone calls and managed 61,603 cases, over 334 calls and 168 cases per day.

There were 53,778 human poison exposures, with children five and younger accounting for 42% of all poison exposure cases. Human exposures with more serious outcomes (moderate, major, or death) accounted for 8.23% of all exposures. There were a total of 7825 non-exposure cases, including information calls. Non-medication exposures accounted for 54% of calls regarding children under 6 years old.

While 81% of poisonings were unintentional; nearly 20% were intentional, with suicidal intent suspected in 13% of these cases. Of the 8556 medication errors, 14% were in children under 6 years old and over 29% were in adults 60 years and older.

Top 10 Exposures By Substance Major Category in 2021

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

Top 10 Exposures By Substance Generic Name in 2021

All Ages	Adults 60 Years & Older	Adults 20 Years & Older
1 Ibuprofen	1 Beta Blocker, Alone	1 Ethanol (Beverage)
2 Melatonin	2 Antihyperlipidemic, Alone	2 Atypical Antipsychotic
3 Ethanol (Beverage)	3 Calcium Antagonist, Alone	3 Benzodiazepine
4 Acetaminophen: Adult Formulation	4 Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitor, Alone	4 Acetaminophen: Adult Formulation
5 Atypical Antipsychotic	5 Acetaminophen: Adult Formulation	5 Beta Blocker, Alone
6 Benzodiazepine	6 Angiotensin Receptor Blocker, Alone	6 Ibuprofen
7 Other Non-Drug Substance	7 Other Type of Anticoagulant	7 Bleach: Hypochlorite (Liquid & Dry)
8 Bleach: Hypochlorite (Liquid & Dry)	8 Insulin	8 Gabapentin
9 Beta Blocker, Alone	9 Gabapentin	9 Trazodone
10 Sertraline	10 Benzodiazepine	10 Other Non-Drug Substance
Teens 13-19 Years	Children 6-12 Years	Children 0-5 Years
1 Ibuprofen	1 Melatonin	1 Melatonin
2 Acetaminophen: Adult Formulation	2 Ibuprofen	2 Ibuprofen
3 Fluoxetine	3 Other Foreign Body	3 Diaper Care/Rash Product
4 Sertraline	4 Hand Sanitizers: Ethanol Based	4 Other Foreign Body
5 Hydroxyzine	5 Methylphenidate	5 Hand Sanitizers: Ethanol Based
6 Atypical Antipsychotic	6 Acetaminophen: Adult Formulation	6 Acetaminophen: Pediatric Formulation
7 Ethanol (Beverage)	7 Glow Product	7 Multi Vitamin-Tablet: Child
8 Acetaminophen: Unknown Formulation	8 Multi Vitamin-Tablet: Child	8 Cream/Lotion/Make-Up
9 Diphenhydramine-Alone (Otc)	9 Other Non-Drug Substance	9 Desiccant
10 Escitalopram	10 Viral Diseases (Eg, Hepatitis A)	10 Viral Diseases (Eg, Hepatitis A)