



# FACTS & FIGURES

## FACTS

- The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, established under RCW 18.76.010, to serve the citizens of Washington state.
- The first poison centers in Washington state were created in 1956, and located at the University of Washington, Seattle, and Deaconess Hospital, Spokane.
- Our specialists in poison information answer more than 64,000 calls a year from Washingtonians related to poisonings, drug overdoses, and toxic exposures.
- We are always here to help, 24/7/365. All calls are free and confidential.
- As one of 55 poison centers nationwide, the Washington Poison Center is the public health safety net for poisonings drug overdoses, and toxic exposures in Washington state.
- Our unique wraparound care model follows patients from initial call to resolution, with a dedicated expert level team of certified specialists in poison information checking in every step of the way.
- In addition to our call center services, the Washington Poison Center serves as a resource for public policy makers and public health leaders in forecasting emerging public health trends.
- Our medical staff is regularly called upon to present toxic trends and best practices in treatment to medical professionals throughout Washington state.
- Our medical staff provides medical toxicology phone consultations to healthcare professionals when questions arise on diagnosing, treating and managing toxic exposures.
- The Washington Poison Center collects data on incoming calls with records dating back to 1999. This data can be purchased for use by the general community, businesses, government and healthcare organizations.
- The Washington Poison Center manages the Take Back Your Meds website, helping Washingtonians safely dispose of their prescription medications.

## FIGURES – 2020

- Of all household cases, 92% were treated at home.
- 72.6% of home callers would have sought medical care or called 911 if the poison center was not there to answer their call.
- 43% of all calls concerned a child under 6-years-old.
- 10.5 % of all calls concerned adults over 60-years-old.
- 23.3 % of calls received were from healthcare professionals.
- 59 medical residents, fellows, pharmacists, nurses, and paramedic students participated in a Washington Poison Center Clinical Rotation.
- 119 public and health care education events