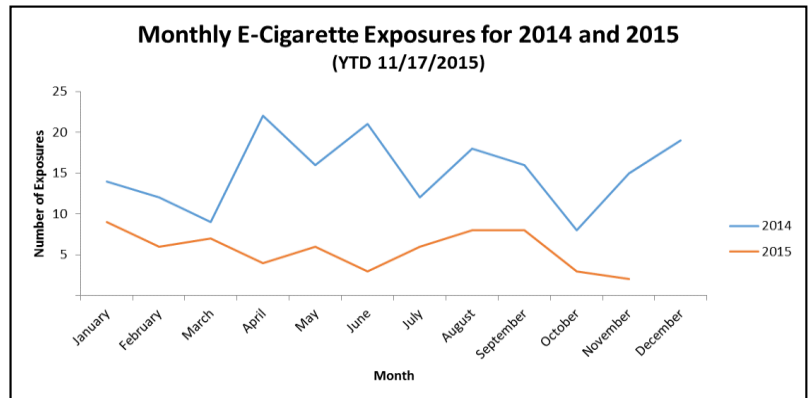
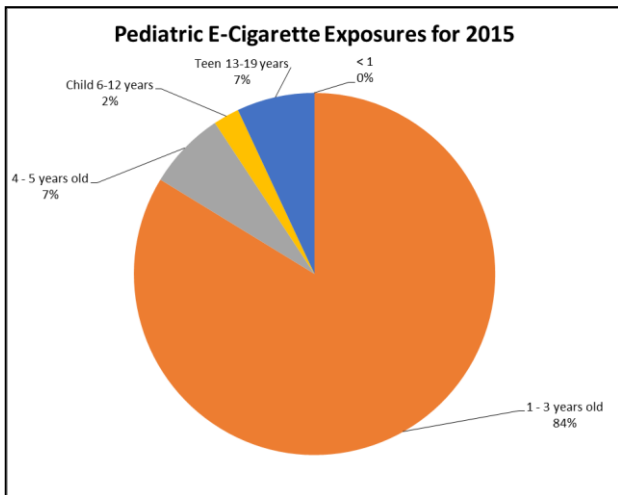


As the year begins to draw to a close, it's impressive to see the reduction in the number of e-cigarette exposure cases being called into the Washington Poison Center. There have been 61 cases reported to the WAPC so far in 2015 compared to 182 cases in all of 2014. The cause for this reduction could be a combination of different factors including increased conversation and awareness and the development of county-level vaping ordinances.

Out of the 61 cases of e-cigarette exposures reported to the Poison Center, 43 cases have been in pediatrics (0-19 year olds), a proportion consistent with previous



years Also similar to previous years, the majority of these pediatric cases are in children 1-3 years old (84% so far in 2015).



“At the Washington Poison Center we have been out in the community this year teaching parents and educators about the potential risks of pediatric poisonings due to liquid nicotine products,” says Whitney Pennington, WAPC’s Education and Communications Specialist. “It’s great to see the number of calls related to these products decrease, but our work is never finished. We will continue our efforts as we know the number of e-cigarette users, especially youth and adolescents, is on the rise.”



PUFFIT Portable Vaporizer

E-cigarette products are also available now in various shapes and sizes, some of which resemble albuterol inhalers. This greatly increases

the potential for confusion amongst children and older adults who may confuse the two products.

Much of the controversy surrounding the use and safety of e-cigarette products is due to the limited scope of research on the products and the associated health outcomes of use. Almost 5 years after coming to the market in the US, research is beginning to shed light on some of these issues. Here is a highlight of some publications from 2015:

- The percentage of US high school students reporting past month e-cigarette use increase from 1.5% to 13.4% between 2011 and 2014¹
- 9th graders reporting use of e-cigarettes were nearly 2X as likely than their non e-cig using peers to initiate use of another tobacco product within one year²
- E-cigarette vapors from high voltage devices have been found to contain carcinogens³

1. Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students – United State, 2011 – 2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 64(14):381-385.
 2. Leventhal, Adam M., et al. “Association of electronic cigarette use with initiation of combustible tobacco product smoking in early adolescence.” *JAMA* 314.7 (2015): 700-707.
 3. Jensen, R. Paul, et al. “Hidden formaldehyde in e-cigarette aerosols.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 372.4 (2015): 392-394.

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

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