The Washington Poison Center experienced another year of increased calls on marijuana exposures and poisonings than the year before. In 2015, there were 272 calls into the WAPC regarding exposures to marijuana products. Of the 272 total cases, there were 86 cases of marijuana edibles, 32 cases of marijuana concentrate, and 97 cases of marijuana in plant form. Of those 272 exposures, 46% (126) were in pediatrics (<19 years old). The majority of calls were regarding 13–19 year olds who had been exposed to some form of marijuana. They accounted for almost a quarter of all marijuana calls (24%).

Many patients displayed more than one clinical effect, the most common being drowsiness/lethargy and tachycardia. The exposures most often occurred in the caller’s own home (77%) but required hospitalization 172 times.

*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. For further information, contact Dr. Garrard at AGarrard@wapc.org or 206-517-2356.

Help is a phone call away. Program your cell phone: 1-800-222-1222