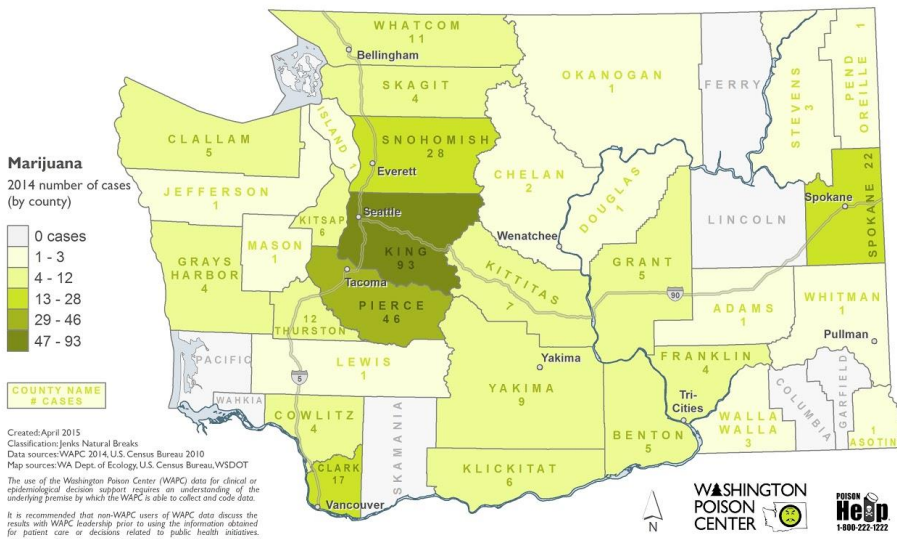
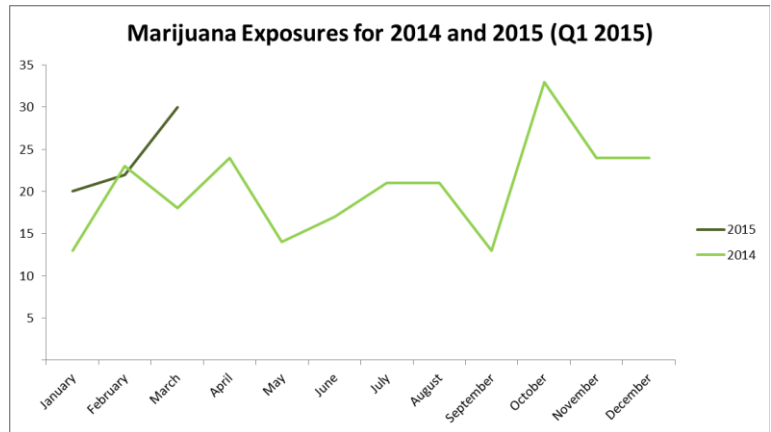
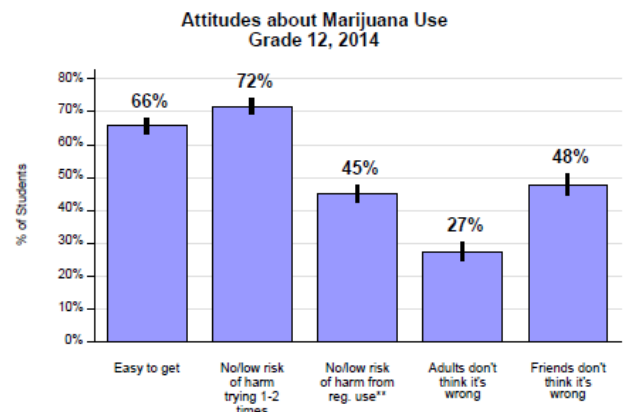


The first quarter of 2015 has already surpassed first quarter 2014 in the number of marijuana exposures in the state of Washington. Currently, 120 retail shops are reporting sales within the state; supply is increasing and cost is decreasing. "The increased number of calls in Q1 2015 though may not actually represent an objective increase in poisonings in the state as much as the result of extensive public education efforts to make citizens aware of poison center services," says Dr. Garrard of the Washington Poison Center.



As part of the public health mission of the Washington Poison Center, the WAPC collaborated with geographic information system (GIS) students from University of Washington to graphically represent hotspots within the state on marijuana exposures. This will help inform the Poison Center and Department of Health on where to focus education efforts and outreach. See map to the left.

In the most recent Healthy Youth Survey conducted in WA state, 27% of 12th graders (n=6,650) admitted to using marijuana in the past 30 days. Attitudes amongst 12th graders regarding marijuana use show that 45% believe there is little or no risk in using marijuana regularly. Prevention programs and coalitions around the state are focusing on educating parents and students on the dangers of marijuana use. Check out <http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/> and www.wapc.org for more information. Check out <http://www.askhys.net/> for more information on the Healthy Youth Survey.



*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.