

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

WASHINGTON POISON CENTER



We're Always Here for You!

OUR MISSION: *To prevent and reduce harm from poisoning through expertise, collaboration, and education.*

OUR VALUES: *Compassion, Integrity, Growth, Drive, Innovation*



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020: PERSEVERING, ENDURING, & RESPONDING TO OUR STATE'S NEEDS

Despite the challenges and tumultuous landscape of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, & natural disasters, the Washington Poison Center (WAPC) continued to persevere, endure and assist Washingtonians with uninterrupted services that NO other agency in the state provides. Our 1-800 emergency Poison Helpline and poison prevention educational programs became more essential than ever as our "COVID By the Numbers" show. Our WAPC's messages have also endured for the past 64 years but in 2020 were aligned primarily to respond to our state's needs:

- **Essential, Accessible, and Inclusive Healthcare Services** for anyone regardless of age, race, ethnicity, insurance status or language 24/7/365
- The WAPC launched the first COVID-19 public hotline in the country, and assisted with state and local COVID-19 Emergency Response through public health alerts and online public education prevention programs targeted to COVID-related exposures
- We kept patients safe at home during the pandemic with our expertise and toxicology consultations
- **Value-based healthcare:** helping to alleviate the economic impact of 2020's events by managing selected patients at home, preserving overwhelmed EMS services & decreasing risk of COVID exposure in healthcare facilities, resulting in savings of \$41 million healthcare dollars

We thank you for your ongoing support of this vital healthcare resource which allows us to persevere, endure, and respond to our state public health and healthcare facility needs, providing services that NO other agency in the state provides.

Steve Burgon, JD

Erica L. Liebelt, MD, FACMT

WAPC Board President

WAPC Executive and Medical Director

2020 By The Numbers

138,528 calls answered and
67,534 cases managed in 2020

119 PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE
EDUCATION EVENTS



59 MEDICAL, PHARMACY, NURSING,
& PARAMEDIC STUDENTS AND
PHYSICIANS WERE TRAINED BY WAPC
STAFF



92% OF PATIENTS KEPT AT
HOME WHEN WE WERE CALLED
FIRST, SAVING OVER
\$ 41 M IN HEALTHCARE COSTS



43% OF ALL CASES
CONCERNED A CHILD UNDER 6
YEARS OLD AND OVER 10.5% OF ALL
CASES CONCERNED ADULTS OVER
60 YEARS OLD



23.3% OF CASES
INVOLVED A PATIENT IN
THE HOSPITAL



"The Washington Poison Center is an invaluable resource for us emergency physicians. We see highly complex overdose cases and they provide crucial support to us every time. I am continually amazed at their knowledge and dedication and at the incredible service they provide."

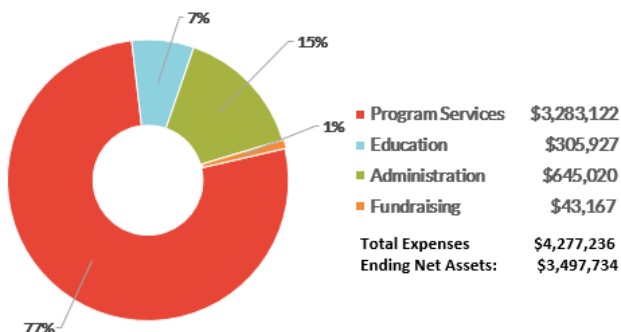
- ER Physician, Providence Regional Medical Center Everett

"The follow up calls were very appreciated, & I'm thankful to have trained experts to call when things come up that I don't know how to deal with."

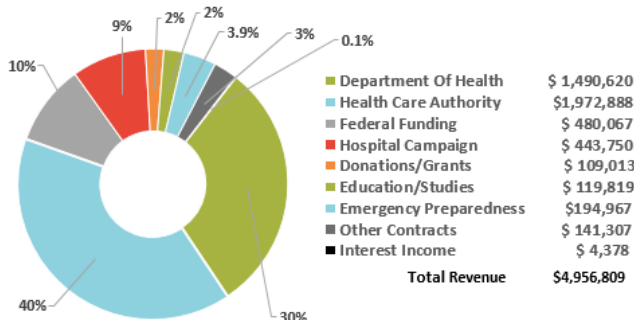
- Andrea G., caller

A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

Allocation of Expenses by the WAPC



Sources of Funding for the WAPC



COVID By the Numbers

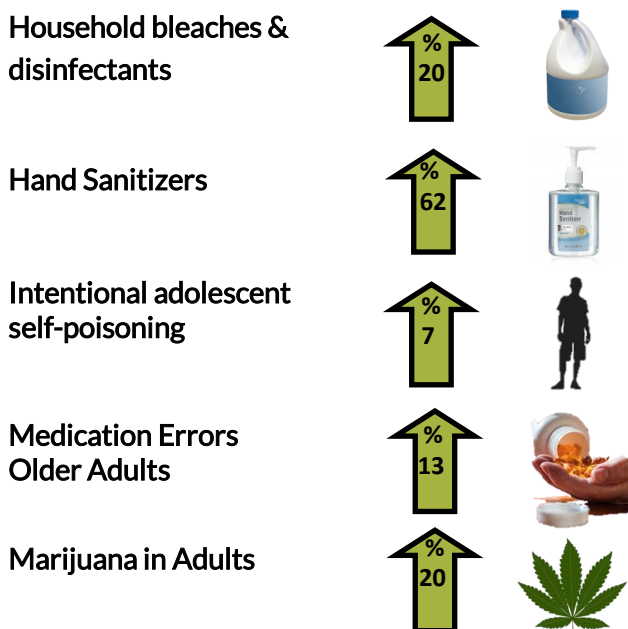
- 4,332 COVID-19 Public Health cases
- 20 online COVID-related presentations or trainings
- 2 Public Health Alerts on COVID topics
[Hydroxychloroquine](#)
[Methanol containing Hand Sanitizers](#)

Data reports on exposure trends during the COVID-19 pandemic are available on our [website](#). Special focus reports include:

- Nicotine
- Cannabis
- Adolescent Intentional Self-Poisoning
- Adults 60 and Over
- Opioids

Exposure Trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Compared to 2019, we saw increased exposures in:



Find us on social media



@mryuk_wa



www.facebook.com/MrYukWA

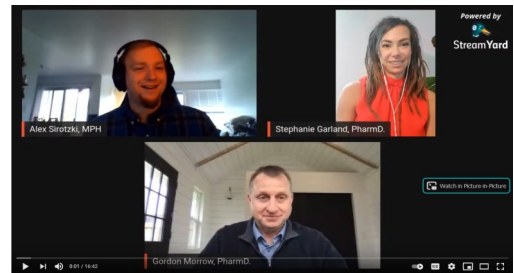


twitter.com/mryukwa



Public Health Education

This year required organizations and individuals to adopt new levels of adaptability. Our Public Health Education team rose to the challenge by shifting all traditional, in-person education and outreach to online platforms. Despite the sudden change and ongoing intensity of the pandemic, our educators reached 4,314 residents across Washington with 109 total education events, including trainings and presentations, participation on expert panels, and livestream discussions. In addition, there were 10 educational presentations given to health care workers.



Livestream Discussion: Exposure Trends during COVID-19

Education topics included medication management, cannabis/marijuana, vaping, lead, and general poison prevention; all topics included specific emphases on the impact of COVID-19. More than any other year, 2020 highlighted the necessity of our education remaining flexible and community needs-focused. While we are thrilled to have reached so many individuals, we are more determined than ever to find ways to reach those with less access to online meeting platforms.

Thank you for taking the time to present to our agency. The information was a very good reminder for our young providers to take Toxicology into consideration when evaluating patients. - Josh S., Medical Services Officer, South County Fire EMS



Visit wapc.org to see annual statistics on the top 10 most common exposures, seasonal health alerts, data reports, to check out Yukboxes, and to order materials.

WAPC Partners in Prevention

Collaborating for a healthier and safer Washington

Hospital Partners

Capital Medical Center
CHI Franciscan Health System
• Harrison Medical Center
• Highline Medical Center
• St. Anthony Hospital
• St. Clare Hospital
• St. Elizabeth Hospital
• St. Francis Hospital
• St. Joseph Hospital
Columbia Basin Hospital
Columbia County Health System
Confluence Health
• Wenatchee Valley Hospital
• Central Washington Hospital
EvergreenHealth
EvergreenHealth Monroe
Ferry County Memorial Hospital
Forks Community Hospital
Garfield County Public Hospital
Island Hospital
Jefferson Healthcare
Kadlec Regional Med. Center
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
Kittitas Valley Healthcare
Lake Chelan Community Hospital
Lincoln Hospital
Mason General Hospital
Mid-Valley Hospital
MultiCare Health System
• Allenmore Hospital
• Auburn Medical Center
• Covington
• Deaconess Hospital
• Good Samaritan Hospital
• Mary Bridge Children's Hospital
• Tacoma General Hospital
• Valley Hospital
North Valley Hospital
Ocean Beach Hospital
Odessa Memorial Healthcare Ctr.
Olympic Medical Center
Othello Community Hospital
Overlake Medical Center
PeaceHealth Columbia Network
• Southwest Medical Center
• St. John Medical Center
PeaceHealth Northwest Network
• Island Medical Center
• St. Joseph Medical Center
• United General Med. Center

PMH Medical Center
Providence Regional Medical Center Everett
Providence Healthcare SW
• Centralia Hospital
• St. Peter Hospital
Providence Health Services SE Region
• St. Mary Hospital
Providence Health Care Eastern WA Region
• Mount Carmel
• Holy Family
• St. Joseph
• Sacred Heart Medical Center
Pullman Regional Hospital
Quincy Valley Medical Center
Samaritan Healthcare
Seattle Children's Hospital
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital
Swedish Health Services
• Swedish Ballard
• Swedish Cherry Hill
• Swedish Edmonds
• Swedish First Hill
• Swedish Issaquah
• Swedish Mill Creek
• Swedish Redmond
Tri-State Memorial Hospital
UW Medicine
• Harborview Med. Center
• UW Medical Center
• Northwest Hospital & Med. Center
• Valley Medical Center
Virginia Mason Medical Center
Whitman Hospital
Willapa Harbor Hospital

"Washington Poison Center is a vital community resource that consistently enhances our capacity to care for patients. We rely on the Center's expertise and are pleased to support their work."

Bill Robertson, CEO, Multicare Health System

The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and relies upon a combination of state contracts; federal, corporate, and foundation grants; and donations from people like you to sustain our core services and expand our reach to provide public and clinical education promoting prevention, intervention, and harm reduction.

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Fundraising



**HOSPITAL
FAIR SHARE**
Washington Poison Center
partner in healthcare

The Washington Poison Center relies on a combination of government funds as well as hospital donations to sustain our core services.

Calls from hospitals and healthcare providers have increased significantly. This confirms the increasing need for our specialized toxicology services for complicated overdose patients, including free physician medical toxicology consultations. **Your donation to our Hospital Fair Share program is vital and provides financial support for this increasing demand.** Please see the list of participating hospitals on this report.

Several ways to donate at
www.wapc.org/support-us/donations/

