



2006 Alaska Poison Prevention and Control Fact Sheet



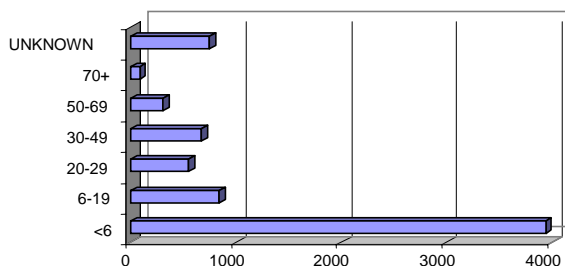
In 2006, there were 9,559 calls received the Oregon Poison Center (OPC)* of which 7,243 (79%) were confirmed as human exposure to a poisonous substance either intentional (self-harm) or unintentional; and 49 (0.5%) were confirmed non-exposures. Most human exposure calls concerned analgesics (15%), followed by household cleaning substances (10%) and personal care products including cosmetics (9%) (Table 1). An additional 234 calls were received concerning animal exposures to confirmed or potentially poisonous substances.

Table 1. Top Ten Calls Concerning Human Exposure, Alaska, 2006

Substance	Number
Analgesics	1,071
Cleaning Substances (Household)	706
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	625
Cold and Cough Preparations	369
Topical Preparations	345
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous	336
Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics	311
Alcohols	308
Antidepressants	287
Antihistamines	243

Most calls (49%) made to OPC were concerning children under age 6 (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Poisoning Patients by Age, Alaska, 2006



The most common substances that involved children under 6 years old were personal care products (such as dental products, hand lotion/cream, and make-up); cleaning products (such as bleach, laundry detergent, glass cleaner); and analgesics. Table 2 lists the calls

by region. Of the 8,990 calls noting the callers location, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su Boroughs had the highest call volumes, whereas Bristol Bay Borough in Southwest Region and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area had the highest rates per 100,000 population, 6,049 and 4,621 per 100,000 population, respectively (Table 2).

Table 2. Calls Volume by Region, Alaska, 2006

Location	Number	Rate*
Anchorage / Mat-Su	5156	1430
Gulf Coast	745	998
Interior (inc. Fairbanks / North Star Boroughs)	1475	1444
Northern	399	1685
Southeast	890	1264
Southwest	110	278

* Per 100,000 population

Most calls received by the OPC were from non-healthcare facilities (71%) and manage on site. Of the calls from healthcare facilities (25%), three out of five patients were treated or evaluated and released.

Of the unintentional human exposure calls, the reason of the human exposure case was therapeutic error (10%), followed by potential miss use of a substance (8%), occupational (3%), environmental (3%), bite/sting (1%), and food poisoning (1%). General information (74%) was the largest unintentional call category and included calls of an unspecific nature including requests for additional prevention and education materials. Ten percent of intentional human exposure calls were suspect suicides (Table 3).

Table 3. Reason for Human Exposure Calls, Alaska, 2006

Reason for Human Exposure	Number	Percent
Unintentional	6037	83
Intentional	1034	14
Adverse Reaction	143	2
Unknown	43	<1
Other	36	<1

For more information, contact Maria Bailey at 907-465-4170 or email maria.bailey@alaska.gov

*The Oregon Poison Center is located on the campus of Oregon Health and Science University in Portland and provides 24-hour emergency poison control telephone services for Alaska.