




Curtis Elko RPH, CSPI
Washington Poison Center
Seattle, WA



Washington Poison Center



WPC web site: www.wapc.org



Expert Poison Information 24/7

Home
About Us
First Aid
Safety
Hazards
Special Topics
For Professionals
Fun & Games
FAQs
Downloads
Links
Site Map

WASHINGTON POISON CENTER

Poison Emergency? Call 1-800-222-1222
Questions about Poison? Call 1-800-222-1222
Questions about Poison Prevention? Call 1-800-222-1222

Did you, your child or pet touch, taste or breathe something that might be harmful?

Happy New Year!

Washington Poison Center celebrates launch of its new website!

add www.wapc.org to your bookmarks!

check back for updates on important poison safety information

Pharmacists, nurses and poison information providers answer the phones! Calling us can prevent a trip to the emergency room. In 2001, the WPC helped avert some 30,000 trips to Emergency Departments or Urgent Care Units by helping people over the telephone.

The National Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222 is FAST, FREE and PRIVATE.

**New National
1-800 # for Poison Centers
1-800-222-1222**

- Began in Jan 2002
- Help logo + Mr. Yuk
- Automatically connects callers to the closest local poison center
- Old numbers still work
- Available on flyers, phone stickers, magnets, information sheets



Happy Birthday Mr. Yuk

- Mr. Yuk turned 36 in 2007!
- Developed by Pittsburgh Poison Center in 1971.
- In WA since 1973
- Mr. Yuk stickers placed on potentially hazardous products can help teach children not to touch.



Poison Exposures in the United States

- Every 14 seconds someone reports a poisoning to a poison center
- Two million poisonings reported every year
- Most poisonings involve everyday items – cleaning supplies, medicines, plants
- WPC receives about 100,000 calls annually



What is the Washington Poison Center?

- Independent
- Non-Profit
- Emergency telephone service for poisoning
- Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Serves the entire state of Washington



Our Mission

- Prevent harm from poisoning through expertise, collaboration and professional and public education.

Services Provided

- **Emergency Treatment Information for exposures to:**
 - Household products
 - Industrial chemicals
 - Food poisoning
 - Plants and mushrooms
 - Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
 - Substances of abuse
- Assistance with pet poisonings
- Follow-up calls from our staff until the crisis is over.
- General information and education materials for distribution and display:
 - Mr. Yuk stickers
 - Prevention and treatment brochures
 - Lesson plans and ideas for teachers

--- Sun Feb 13, 2005 @ 22:51 By 26:Elko, Curtis ---

***History.** Caller (relationship to patient: mother) states: I have a 2 month old 12lb 4 oz- my 3 year old was brushing teeth with tooth paste-- he reached over to the 2 month old and pretended to brush her teeth, so she got some in her mouth and may have swallowed a small amount- is this toxic?

exposed to: oral b stages toothpaste
 calculated/justified amount: taste
 time exposed: 1 hour ago

***Symptoms** (beginning): none
***Treatment already provided:** none
***Medical History** Healthy
***Assessment:** taste amount not dangerous : . not followed, minimal effects are possible

Per Poisindex:
 FLUORIDE TOOTHPASTE

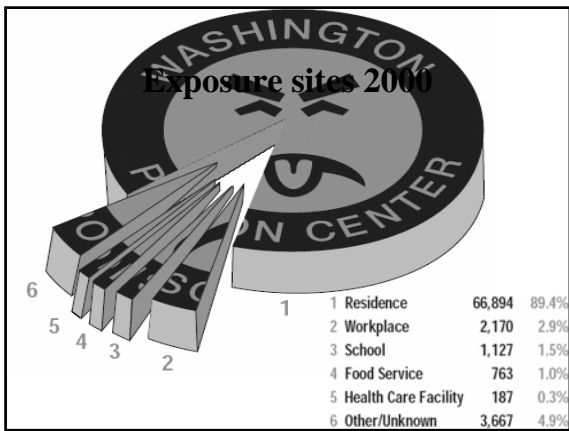
ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: FLUORIDE ION 0.15% W/V SORBITOL WATER HYDRATED SILICA GLYCERIN SODIUM LAURYL SULFATE FLAVOR XANTHAN GUM POTASSIUM ACESULFAME CARBOMER SODIUM HYDROXIDE FD&C RED NO. 3(AVAILABLE CONTAINER: 120 GRAM TUBE; 4.2 OUNCE TUBE

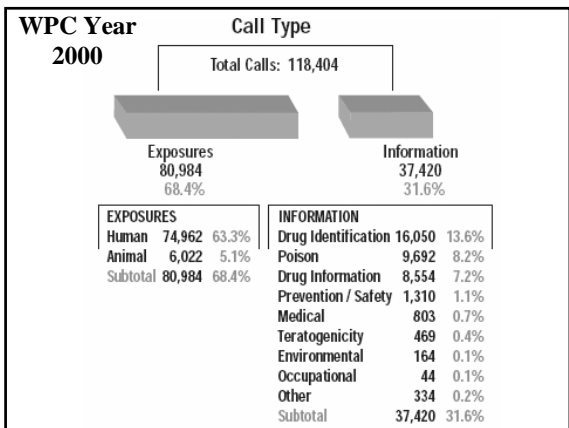
***Management plan (site: home):** no treatment suggested. Call back if questions or concerns.

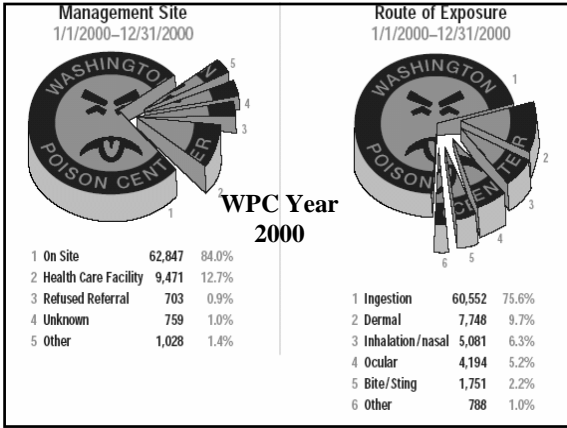
Resources used/consultants: WPC guidelines and POISINDEX Toxicologic Managements

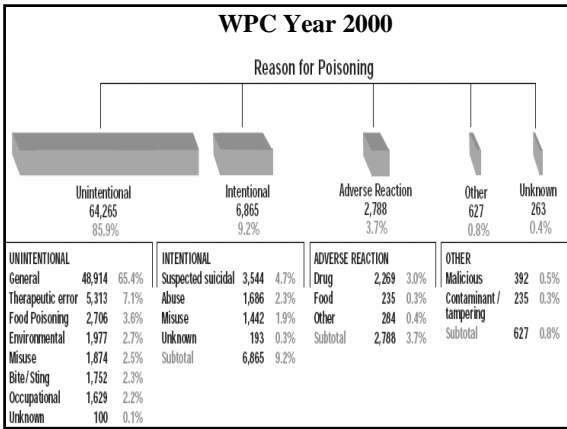
FLUORIDE

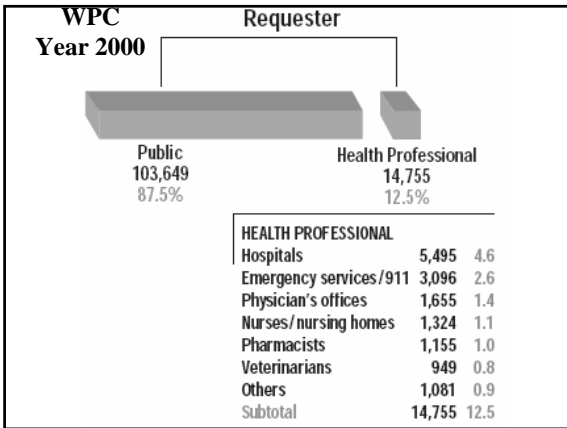
Sample case













Poison Center Staff & Resources

- Medical Toxicologists
- Pharmacists (CSPI)
- Registered Nurses (CSPI)
- Poison Information Providers

All specially trained and certified to provide poison information.

Nearly 1 million substances listed in POISINDEX®

The **POISINDEX® System** identifies ingredients for hundreds of thousands of commercial, pharmaceutical, and biological substances. Each substance is linked to one or more management document(s) providing information on clinical effects, range of toxicity, and treatment protocols for exposures involving the substances.

William O. Robertson, MD



Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Medical Director of a Poison Center in Washington State since 1963.

Kerri Booth, MS, CHES

Education Coordinator

155 NE 100th St. Suite 400

Seattle, Washington 98125

1-800-222-1222

Direct: 206-517-2388



**Top Poisons Nationwide
for
Children under 6 yrs.**



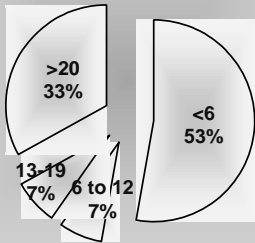
- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Cleaning substances
- Analgesics
- Foreign bodies
- Topicals
- Plants
- Cough and Cold preparations
- Bites/envenomations
- Vitamins
- Insecticides/pesticides/rodenticides

Poisonings in WA Children

- Children under 5 account for more than 50% of all calls to the Poison Center.
- Although children under the age of six are the most likely to be exposed to poison, they represent just over two percent of poison fatalities.
- 85% of all cases treated at home.



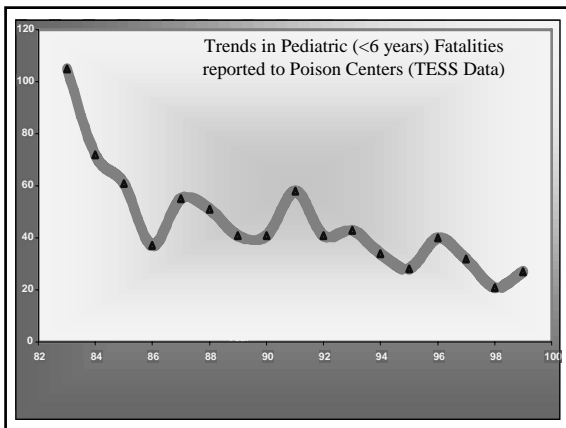
**Exposures Distribution All Age
(Years)**



Burden & Success in U.S.

- **Death in children under 6 years of age:**
 - 1940's: 500 annually
 - 1997: 25

- **Prevention Success:**
 - Child resistant caps (1970)
 - Rx reformulations (safer drugs)
 - Public education
 - Legislation



Reasons for Exposure by Age (years) for 873 Fatalities					
TESS Data 1999					
Reason	< 6	6-12	13-19	>19	Total
Unintentional					
General	9	0	0	1	10
Therapeutic Error	3	0	0	50	53
Bite/Sting	0	1	0	6	7
Misuse	0	0	0	11	11
Environmental	8	2	2	11	23
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	0	0
Occupational	0	0	0	11	11
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	3	2	90	115


Source: 1999 AAPCC Annual Report. Litovitz et al. The American Journal of Emergency Medicine. Sep 2000; 18(5): 521.

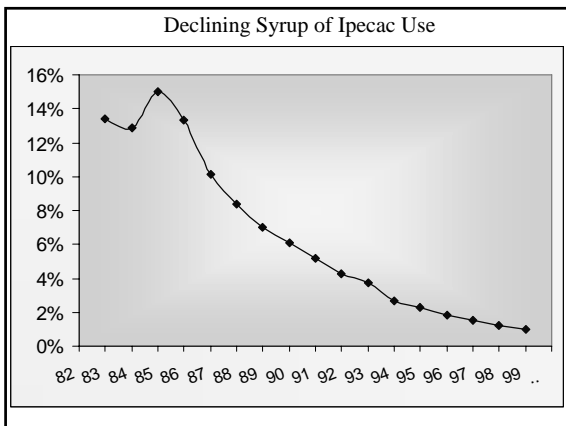
Reasons for Exposure by Age (years) for 873 Fatalities 1999					
Intentional	< 6	6-12	13-19	>19	Total
Suicide	0	0	23	449	472
Misuse	1	1	1	57	60
Abuse	0	1	19	117	137
Unknown	0	0	2	38	40
Total (all fatalities for any reason)	24	8	53	788	873

Source: 1999 AAPCC Annual Report. Litovitz et al. The American Journal of Emergency Medicine. Sep 2000; 18(5): 521.

Syrup of Ipecac

- Obtain Syrup of Ipecac and keep it in your home.
- Use it **ONLY** if and when instructed to do so by the Poison Center or physician.





AAPCC TESS Data

- American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)
- Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS)
- TESS data estimates that 96% of all poison exposures nationwide are reported to Poison Centers.

Available at www.aapcc.org

TESS Toxic Exposure Surveillance System

The American Association of Poison Control Centers would like to introduce you to the Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS), the only comprehensive poisoning surveillance database in the United States. Developed in 1983, TESS contains detailed toxicological information on more than 24 million poison exposures reported to U.S. poison centers. That includes more than 2 million reports to poison centers for 2000 alone, an estimated 96% of all poison exposures reported to poison centers in the U.S.

Annual Reports. Annual reports are summaries of TESS data and are available for all years from 1983 to present

2003 TESS Annual Report
**This report was initially published in The American Journal of
 Emergency Medicine (22(5):335-404, 2004)**

Main Report - Text
 Table 21 - Fatalities
 Table 22A, Table 22B - Exposure Cases by Generic Category -
 Non-Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceuticals
 References and Appendix - Abstracts of Selected Fatal Cases

Reason for Human Poison Exposure Cases 1999 TESS data		
Reason	No.	%
Unintentional		
General	1,460,073	66.3
Therapeutic error	154,422	7
Bite/Sting	78,697	3.6
Misuse	72,083	3.3
Environmental	51,751	2.4
Food Poisoning	46,054	2.1
Occupational	42,088	1.9
Unknown	2,897	0.1
Total	1,908,065	86.7
Intentional		
Suicidal	154,355	7
Misuse	35,261	1.6
Abuse	31,157	1.4
Unknown	9,147	0.4
Total	229,920	10.4

**Using Toxicall[®]
 Data**

National data is compiled continuously and
 published yearly by the AAPCC

Using Toxicall[®]
Data

Search your local data

Research

SWOG studies (unblinding)

Epidemiology

Retrospective studies

Total # of calls: 84,522
Total # exposure calls (human): 67,614 (80%)

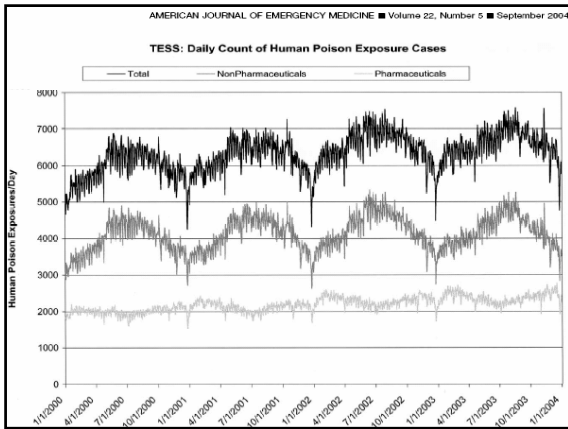
Washington Poison
Center Treatments

2004

Total no treatment or unknown:	35746	(53%)
Unknown if therapy provided:	31169	(46%)
Patient refused any help:	263	(0.39%)
Observation only:	2379	(3.5%)
No therapy:	1935	(2.9%)
Any therapy:	31596	(47%)
Any decontamination:	27707	(41%)
Dilute/irrigate/wash:	22142	(33%)
Food/snack:	3871	(5.7%)
Fresh air:	1923	(2.8%)
AC:	1802	(2.7%)
Other emetic:	775	(1.1%)
SOI:	434	(0.64%)
Lavage:	265	(0.39%)
Cathartic:	131	(0.19%)
Whole bowel irrigation:	11	(0.016%)

Washington Poison Center
2004 Exposures: Medications
versus everything else

All substances: 103354
Medications: 48398
Non-medications: 54956



Research using TOXICALL Database

**MANAGEMENT OF INSULIN
THERAPEUTIC ERRORS
BY A POISON CENTER**

Elko C, Robertson W. Washington Poison
Center. Seattle, Washington.

Research using TOXICALL Database

Background. Patients with diabetes mellitus have recently had expanded choices of oral hypoglycemic drugs and new forms of insulin to pursue the benefits of tighter glycemic control. However, information theory asserts that increasing the number of medications will exponentially increase the drug errors. The purpose of this retrospective review is to describe the nature of drug errors among our insulin calls.

Research using TOXICALL Database

Method. Insulin exposure calls (N=315) from January 1999 to March 2004 were reviewed and cases involving a therapeutic error were identified.

Research using TOXICALL Database

Results. Therapeutic errors involving insulin (N=180) represent 0.05% of all exposure calls and 57% of all insulin exposure calls at our poison center. Well documented cases (N=100) were selected and are summarized here:

Mean dose (range) units	Mean observation time (range) hours	Glucometer measured mean blood glucose (range) mg/dL	Management site
45 ± SD 37 (5-270)	6.1 ± SD 5.7 (0.88-42)	Initial: 194 ± SD 102 (41-450) Lowest: 127 ± SD 76 (35-386) Highest: 233 ± SD 102 (75-591)	Home: 85 HCF: 12 Other: 3

SD = Standard deviation HCF = Health Care Facility

Research using TOXICALL Database

Most cases involved short-acting insulin (N=69), the wrong insulin type (N=33), wrong dose (N=37) or a combination of these (N=26). Only 23 cases documented any side effects, with hypoglycemia (blood glucose < 70) being the most common (N=19) and with food being the most frequent therapy (N = 77). No patient developed seizures.

Research using TOXICALL Database

Conclusion. Therapeutic errors involving insulin are relatively common and usually can be managed on site by the poison center with minimal intervention and cost.

Collaboration with industry

SAFETEC faxback service

Automatic Dishwashing Detergent (ADW) Study

National Meetings

**North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology
(NACCT)**

Posters at annual Toxicology meetings
(see AAPCC, NACCT web sites)

Public Health

PIRT (Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking
(PIRT) Review Panel)

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/PIRT.HTM>

Involvement in EMS

HAZMAT incidents
