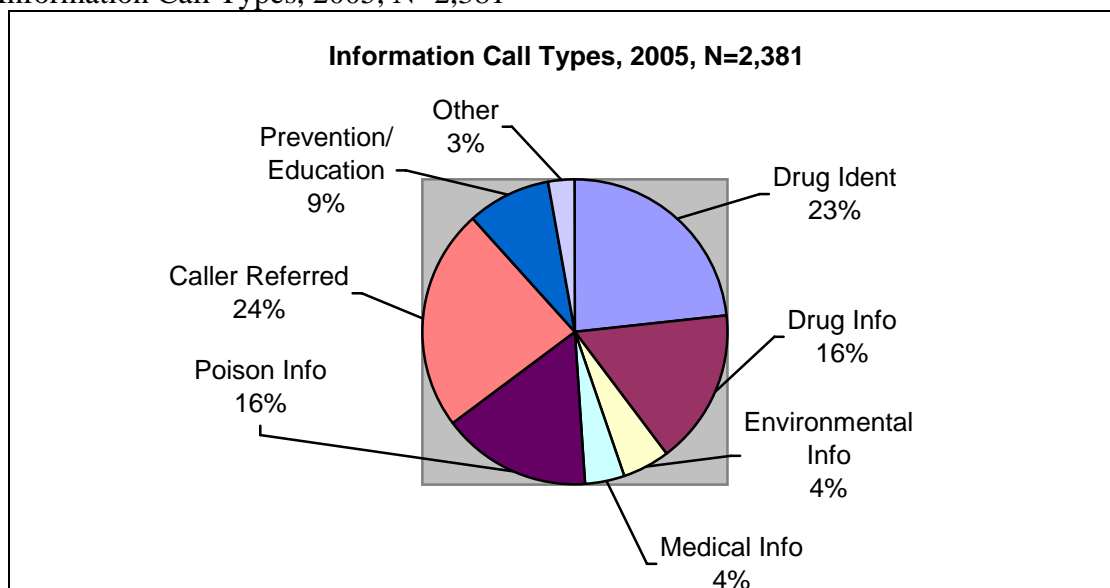


2005 Alaska Poison Control System Annual Report

On September 1, 2001, Alaska entered into an agreement with the Oregon Poison Center (OPC) to receive all calls from Alaska using the new national Poison Number (1-800-222-1222). Since then, OPC has answered more than 40,400 calls from Alaskans seeking help in poison emergencies, asking for drug information or identification, or finding out how to prevent poisonings.

In 2005, there were 9,955 calls to the Oregon Poison Center. Of these calls, 7,303 were confirmed human exposure calls. There were 43 confirmed non-exposure calls, 225 animal exposure calls, and 2,381 information calls (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Information Call Types, 2005, N=2,381



Calls are received from across the state with more calls being made from the highly populated urban regions (Table 1).

Table 1. Calls By Region, 2005, N=9,955

Injury Region	Rural Urban	Number
Municipality of Anchorage	Urban	4,421
Fairbanks & Fairbanks North Star Borough	Urban/Rural	1,229
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Rural	997
Kenai Peninsula	Rural	689
Southeast Alaska (excluding City & Borough of Juneau)	Rural	617
City & Borough of Juneau	Urban	408
Yukon-Kuskokwim	Rural	326
Kodiak	Rural	158
Norton Sound	Rural	198
Northwest Arctic	Rural	86
North Slope Borough	Rural	97
Bristol Bay	Rural	94
Aleutian/Pribilof	Rural	49
Not Specified		586

Most calls were received from private individuals (74%). Calls were also received from hospitals, clinics, physician offices, nursing homes, EMS and police, pharmacists, schools, workplaces, and restaurants.

Over 80% of Alaska’s human exposure poison calls (83%) were unintentional poisonings (Chart 2), but there were 1,012 intentional poisoning calls (Chart 3) and 100 adverse reactions to food or drug calls.

Chart 2. Call Reason, Unintentional Poison Calls, 2005, N=6,095

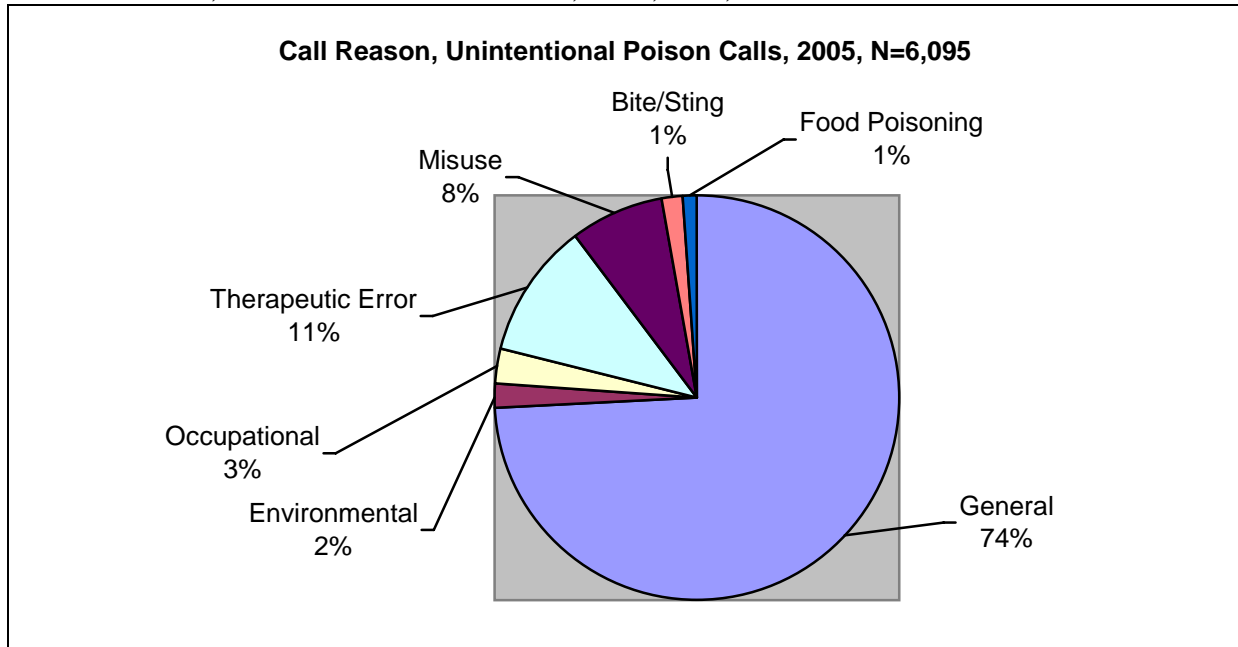
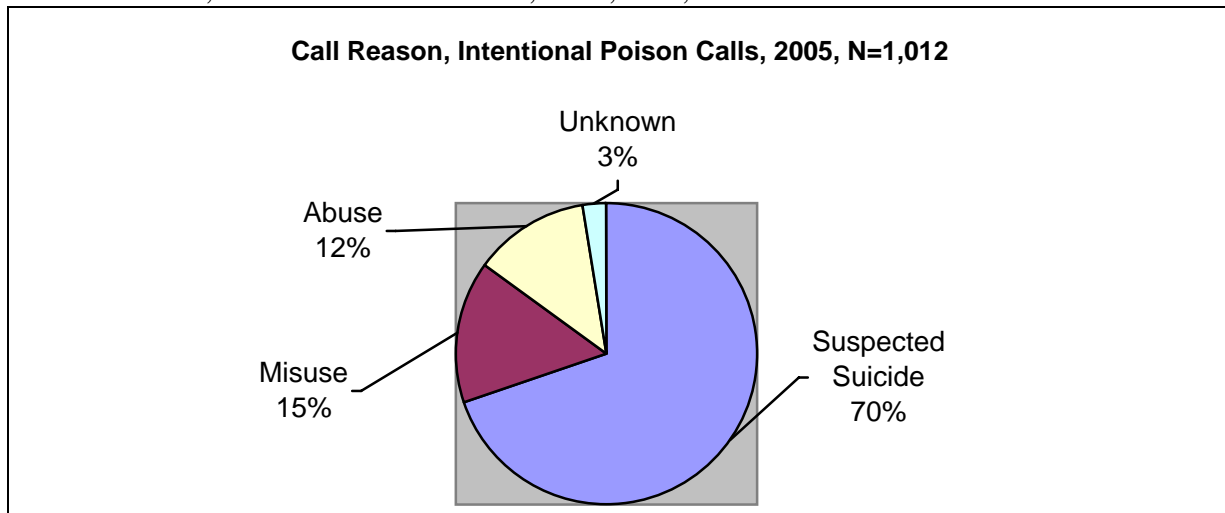


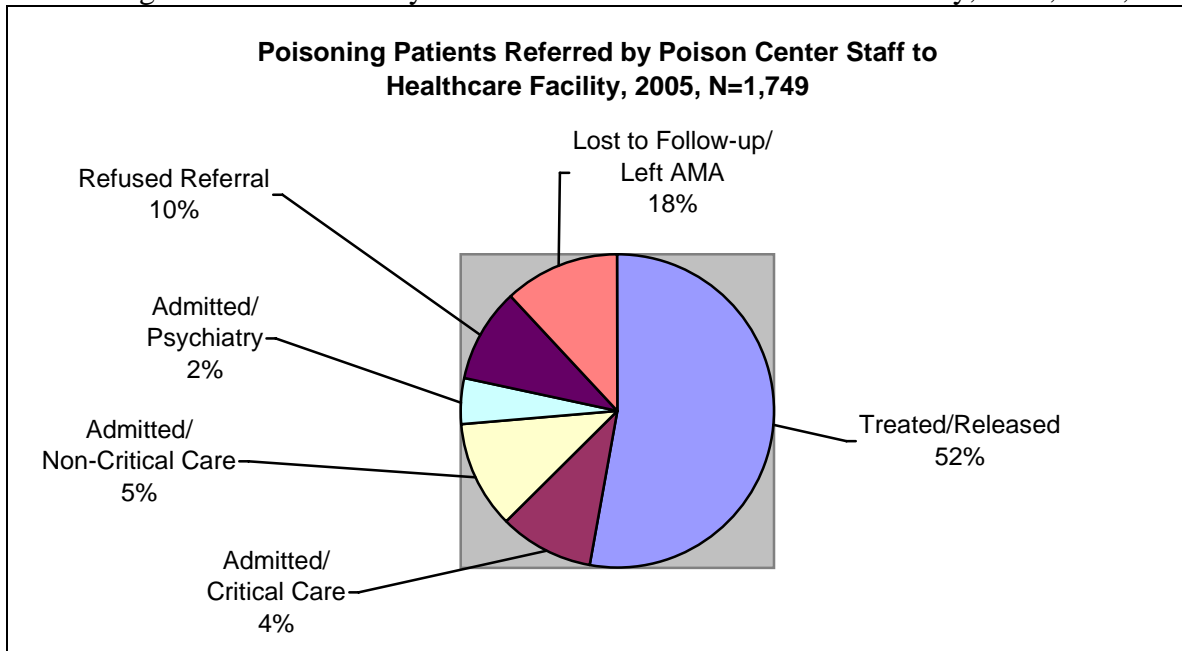
Chart 3. Call Reason, Intentional Poison Calls, 2005, N=1,012



Calls for children under age 6 made up most of the poison calls (54%); however more intentional poison calls were made for adults over age 20 (64%) and 31% of the intentional poison calls were for teens ages 13-19.

In general, most poisoning calls (73%) were managed on site, without the patient needing to go to a healthcare facility. The poison center staff referred 1,749 patients to a healthcare facility and 58% of those patients were treated and released (Chart 4).

Chart 4. Poisoning Patients Referred by Poison Center Staff to Healthcare Facility, 2005, N=1,749



The most common poison substances were pharmaceuticals (Table 2); the most common non-pharmaceutical substances are detailed in Table 3. There were 16 deaths recorded during the year: two were due to non-pharmaceutical substances; two each to analgesics, anticonvulsants, and muscle relaxants; and three each to antidepressants and cardiovascular drugs. Fifty-seven (57) of the calls were for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Table 2. Pharmaceutical Substance Calls, 2005, N=4,551

Substance	Number
Acetaminophen (alone & in combination with other drugs)	508
Cold/Cough Preparations	373
Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics	346
NSAIDS (Cox-2 inhibitor, ibuprofen, etc.)	341
Antidepressants	304
Antihistamines	249
Antimicrobials (antibiotics, antivirals, etc.)	241
Cardiovascular	222
Vitamins	204
Gastrointestinal Preparations	179
Hormone/Hormone Antagonists	163
Diaper Care/Rash Products	157
Topical Preparations (excluding Diaper Care/Rash Products)	156
Dietary Supplements/Herbals/Homeopathic	133
Stimulants/Street Drugs	127
Anticonvulsants	122
Electrolytes/Minerals	107
Aspirin (alone & in combination with other drugs)	93
Muscle Relaxants	81
Eye/Ear/Nose/Throat Preparations	74
Opioids (codeine, Morphine, etc.)	69

Table 3. Non-Pharmaceutical Substance Calls, 2005, N=4,117

Substance	Number
Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	712
Cleaning Substances	670
Foreign Bodies/Toys/Misc.	338
Alcohols	308
Hydrocarbons	230
Plants	204
Pesticides	183
Chemicals	180
Food Products/Food Poisoning	160
Fumes/Gases/Vapors	118
Arts/Crafts/Office Supplies	113
Bites and Stings	99
Automotive/Aircraft/Boat Products	79

The Alaska Poison System Educator received 191 requests for poison prevention information during 2005. Requests were received from pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, EMS organizations, fire departments, healthcare providers, Head Start, nursing homes, senior centers, schools, daycare centers, and private citizens. The Educator sent out 27,289 magnets and stickers with the national poison hotline number, 7,272 brochures, 555 posters, and 105 of the national SPIKE preschool education video programs which included 10,620 temporary tattoos.