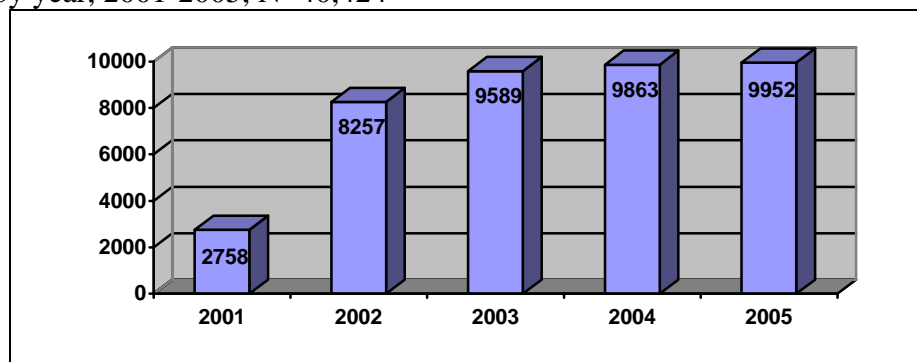


Alaska Poison Control System 5-Year Report

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 40,424 calls from Alaskans seeking help in poison emergencies, asking for drug information or identification, or finding out how to prevent poisonings.

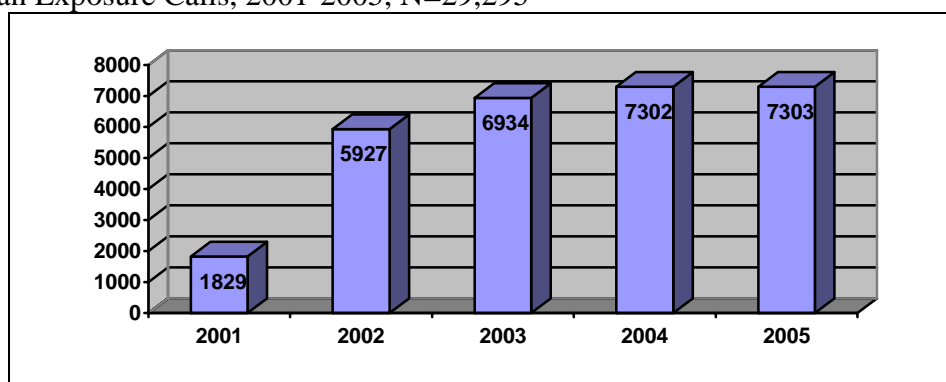
There has been a steady increase in calls to the poison center over the five-year period (Chart 1). (In 2001, OPC only answered calls from September 1 – December 31.)

Chart 1. Calls by year, 2001-2005, N=40,424



Most of the calls made to the poison center are regarding human exposures to poisons (Chart 2), however animal exposures, confirmed non-exposures, and information calls are also received. Information calls include questions about drug identification, environmental information, substance abuse questions, and information about prevention, safety, and education. Requests for poison prevention materials are referred to the Poison System Educator in Alaska.

Chart 2. Human Exposure Calls, 2001-2005, N=29,295



The Alaska Poison Control System Educator began sending out poison prevention materials in 2002. Since then, more than 670 requests have been received from pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, EMS organizations, fire departments, healthcare providers, Head Start, nursing homes, senior centers, schools, daycare centers, the Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard, and private citizens. The Educator has sent out 333,772 stickers and magnets with the national poison hotline number, 10,828 brochures and flyers, 8,947 posters, and 207 of the national SPIKE preschool education video programs.