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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POISON CONTROL CENTERS

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**Highlights of the 2004 Annual Data Report
American Association of Poison Control Centers
Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS®)**

In 2004, the AAPCC Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS) recorded 2,438,644 human exposures reported to and by 62 US poison centers. The centers served all 50 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, a total of 293.7 million people. There were 8.3 reported poisoning exposures per 1000 people.

Age breakdown of 2,438,644 reported poison exposures

General Children (age 19 and under) 65.2%	General Adults (age 20 and over): 34.3 %
Children under 6: 51.3%	Adults 20-29: 9.2%
Children 6-12: 6.4 %	Adults 30-59: 18.5%
Teens 13-19: 7.2 %	Elderly 60+: 4.9%

Age breakdown of 1183 human exposure fatalities as reported to U.S. Poison Centers

Children under 6: 2.3%	General Adults (20 +): 87.9%
Children 6 -12: 7.6 %	Adults 20- 59: 71.9 %
Teens 13-19: 16.5 %	Adults 60 -99: 13.3%

Site of exposure:

Residence: 92.7%	Health-Care Facility: .3%
Workplace: 2%	Restaurant or food services: 0.4%
School: 1.4%	

Substances most frequently involved in pediatric exposures (children younger than six years) :

Cosmetics and personal care products, 13.4%; cleaning substances, 10%; analgesics, 7.9%; also topicals, foreign bodies, cough and cold preparations, plants, pesticides, vitamins, antihistamines, antimicrobials, gastrointestinal preparations, art/craft/office supplies, electrolytes and minerals, hormones and hormone antagonists.

Substances most frequently involved in adult exposures (older than 19 years):

Analgesics, 14.9%; sedative/hypnotic/antipsychotics, 11.7%; cleaning substances, 9.9%; also antidepressants, bites/envenomations, cardiovascular drugs, alcohol, pesticides, food poisoning, cosmetics and personal care products, chemicals, hydrocarbons, fumes/gases/vapors, anticonvulsants, antihistamines, stimulant and street drugs, antimicrobials, hormones and hormone antagonists, cough and cold preparations, muscle relaxants

For poison emergencies, call 1-800-222-1222 to speak to a trained health professional, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC; <http://www.aapcc.org/2004.htm>) maintains the national database of information logged by the country's 61 Poison Control Centers (PCCs). Case records in this database are from self-reported calls: they reflect only information provided when the public or healthcare professionals report an actual or potential exposure to a substance (e.g., an ingestion, inhalation, or topical exposure, etc.), or request information/educational materials. Exposures do not necessarily represent a poisoning or overdose. The AAPCC is not able to completely verify the accuracy of every report made to member centers. Additional exposures may go unreported to PCCs and data referenced from the AAPCC should not be construed to represent the complete incidence of national exposures to any substance(s). Rev. January 2006