

Alaska Poison Center

The Alaska Poison Control System (APCS) contracts with the Oregon Poison Center (OPC) to manage calls from Alaska. This 24-hour emergency hotline and health information service is available to the public and health care providers. The phone lines are managed by Registered Nurses with advanced training and certification in toxicology, along with physicians and other toxicology specialists. APCS is managed through the state's Injury Prevention Program.

The OPC uses Toxicall®, a data software program for documentation of each poison center case. Poison center staff collect extensive demographic, clinical and substance information from each caller. Calls are assigned nationally standardized codes for symptoms and causes as defined by the National Poison Data System (NPDS).

Poison Center data from 2002-2021 were provided by the APCS.



Source: Alaska Poison Center.

Services for Alaska's Poison Center are provided through an agreement with the Oregon Poison Center. Marijuana-related calls to the poison center may include physical symptoms like heart or breathing problems, vomiting, or psychological symptoms like anxiety.ⁱ Although only a small number of calls are received each year for marijuana-related symptoms, the number of calls has increased since marijuana legalization.

- There were 8 total calls in 2014 (the year the ballot initiative was passed, November 2014), 10 calls in 2015 (when adult possession and use became legal), 31 in 2017 (the first full year of Alaska's marijuana retail sales), peaking in 2020 with 45 calls.

ⁱ For example, Alaska and Oregon Poison Center data on marijuana-related calls were reported by Noble, Hedberg and Hendrickson (2019) in *Clinical Toxicology* <https://ohsu.pure.elsevier.com/en/publications/acute-cannabis-toxicity>