

Preventing Poisoning During COVID-19: What You Need to Know to Keep Kids Safe

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Disclosures

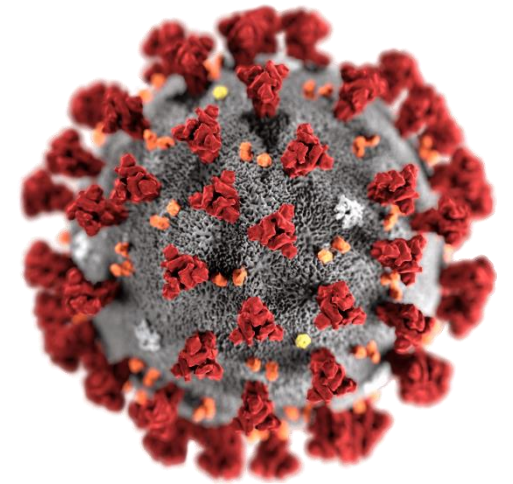
- No potential conflicts of interest or financial relationships to report.



Learning Objectives

Upon completion, the participant will be able to:

- Recognize risk factors, which make young children susceptible to poisonings during COVID-19.
- Demonstrate knowledge of specific medications and substances that are a concern for poisoning during COVID-19.
- Apply their knowledge of poison safety to their existing programs for students.



Meet Our Poison Center Team

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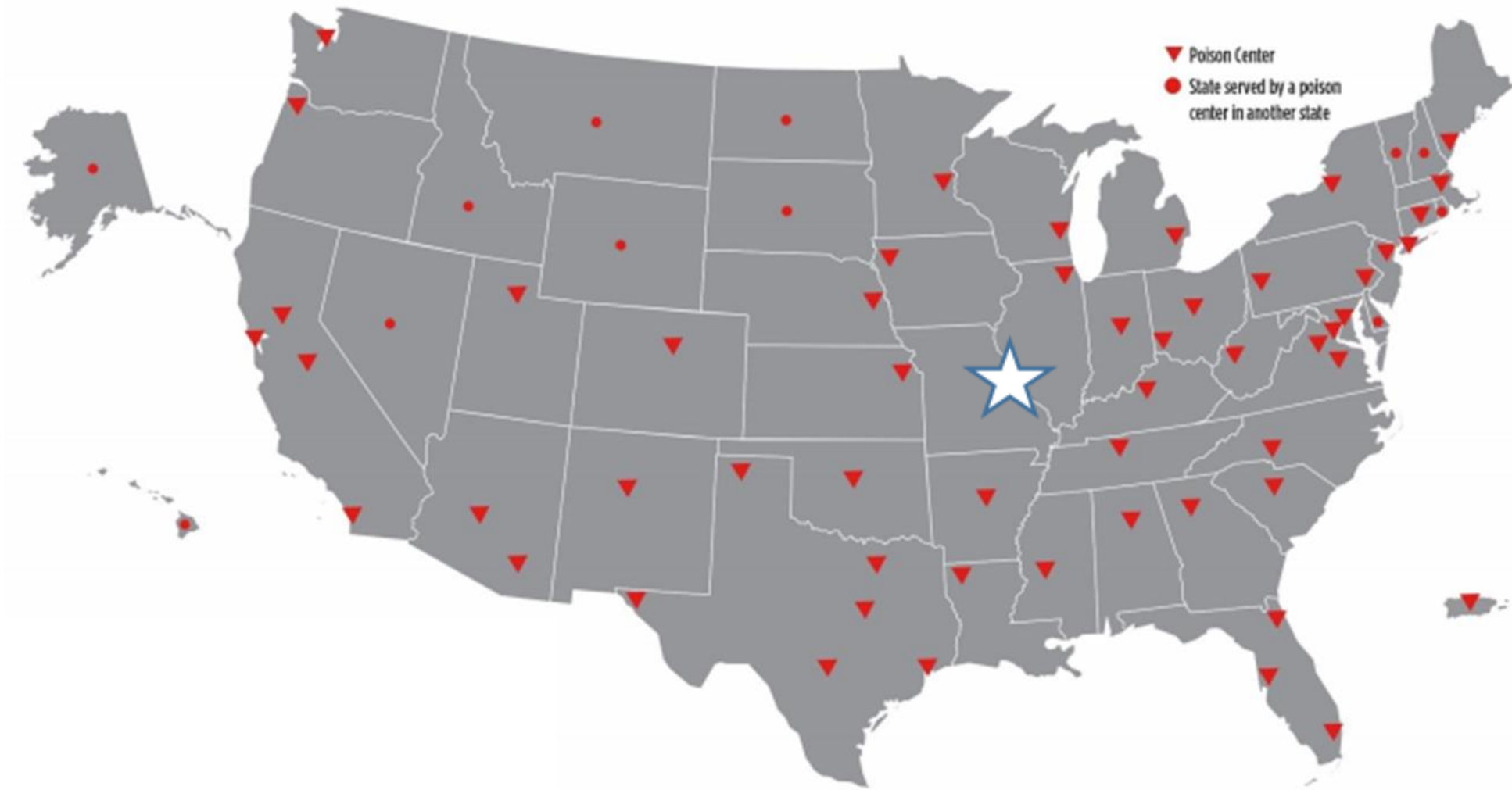
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US Poison Centers

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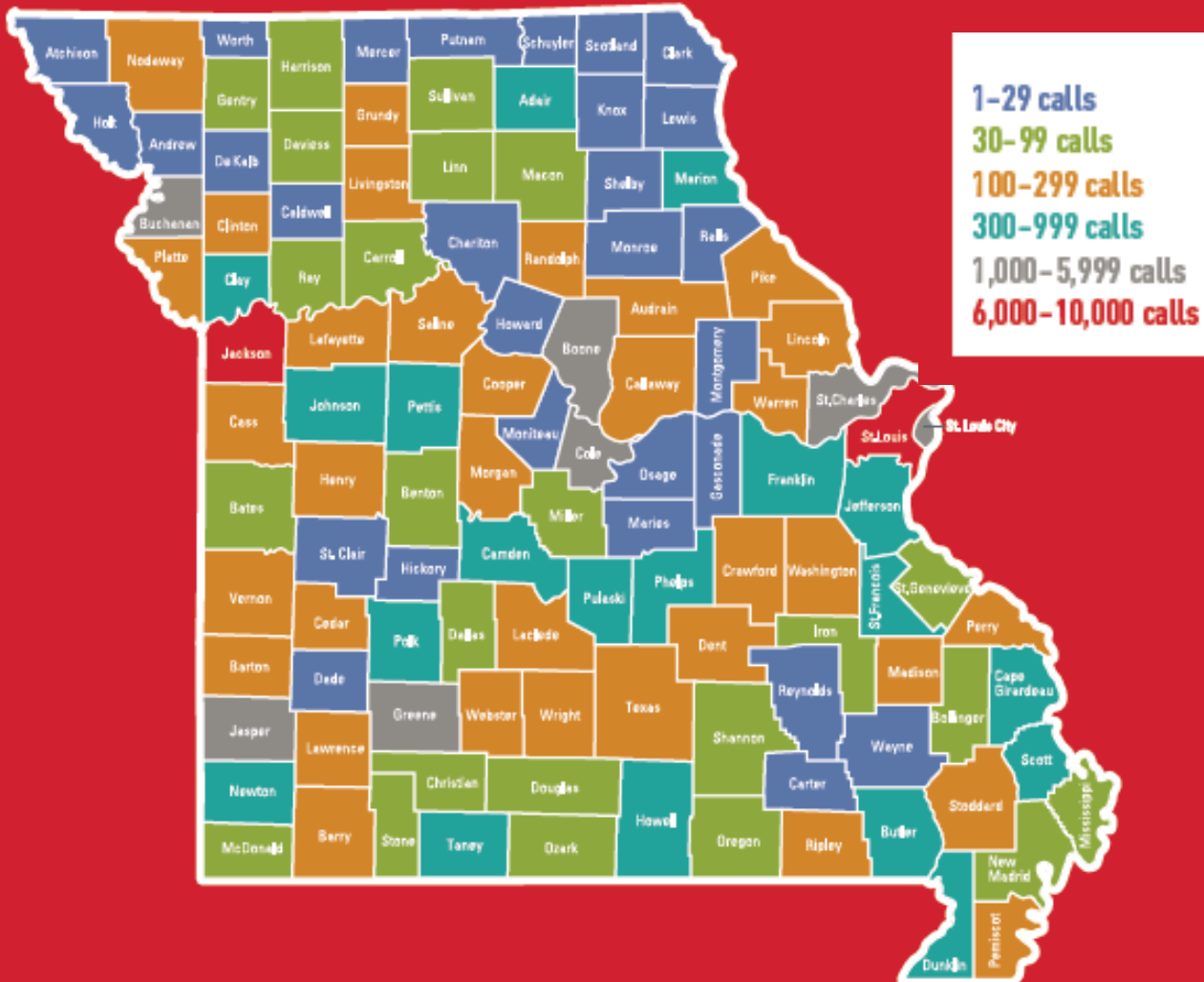
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Population Served

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- Total MO population ~6 million
 - 18th largest of the 50 states
- Two cities have 55% of the population

Who is serving Missouri?

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Registered Pharmacists & Nurses who are certified as Specialists in Poison Information, clinically supervised by a board certified physician toxicologist

2019 Facts At A Glance

Exposure cases: 55,712

Information calls: 4,956

Total: 60,688

72% from general public

- Via toll-free telephone, text, web chat, TTY

28% from health care

- Physicians, Nurses
- Pharmacists, Dentists
- Nursing Home, Vets
- Emergency Medical Services
- Police

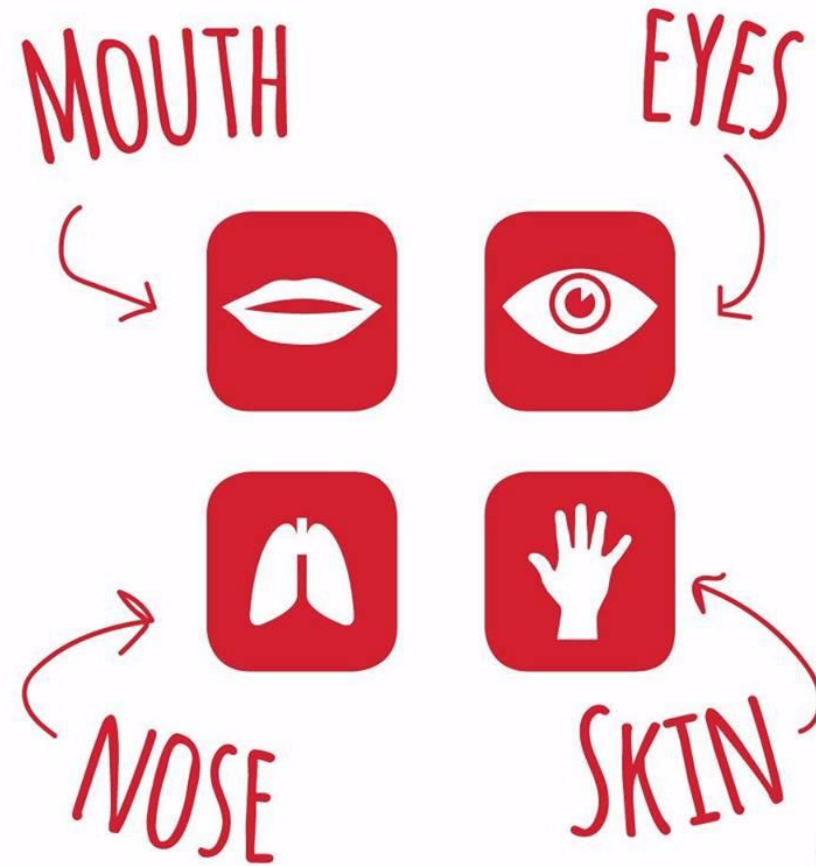


A POISON is any product or substance that can harm someone if used in the wrong way, by the wrong person, or in the wrong amount.

Different Routes

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Poisoning Risk Factors

Children under 6 years

- Curiosity
- Imitation
- Age related capabilities
- Poor storage
- Lack of supervision
- Look-alikes



Poisoning Risk Factors

Children ages 6-12 years

- Independence
- Increased alone time
- Magical thinking
- Poor cause and effect thinking
- Trouble with reading labels
- Dares
- Introduction to substance abuse



Poisoning Risk Factors

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Teens/Young Adults

- Inability to understand labels
- Workplace exposures
- Stress
- Peer pressure/Substance abuse
- Misconceptions about medicine safety
- Internet and social media



COVID-19 and Poisonings

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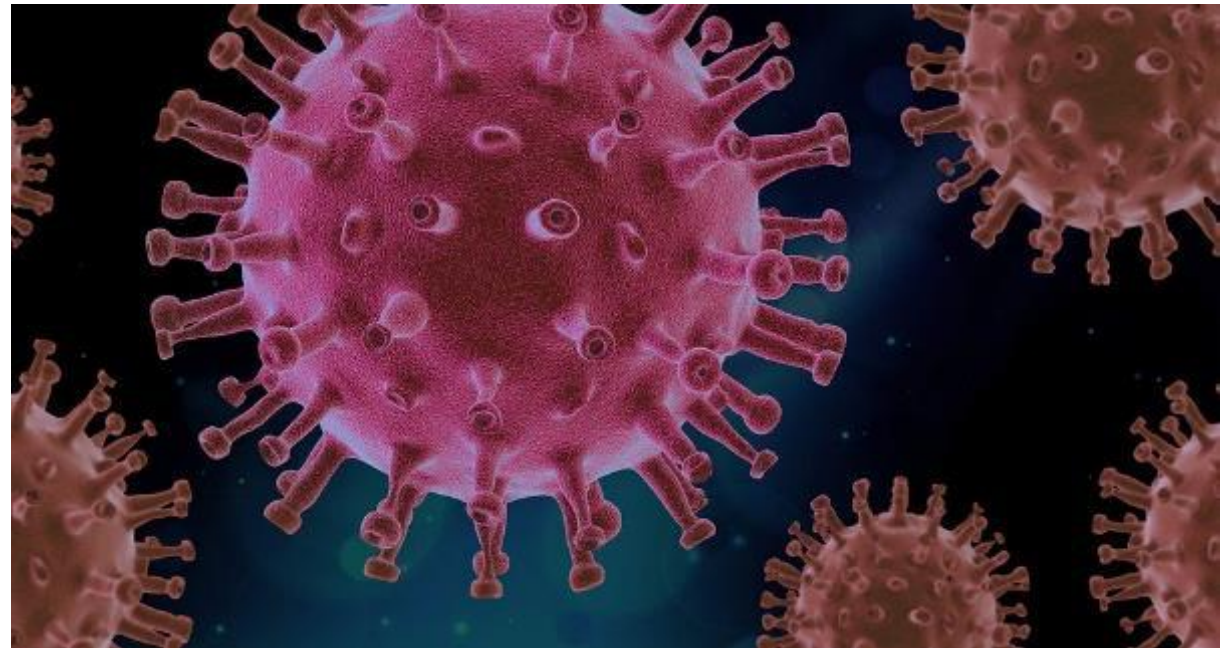
- We all are home more including the KIDS!
- Increased use and access to household products
- Increased stress and distractions
- Rumors and misinformation

COVID Remedies/Treatments?

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- There are currently no FDA approved medications, vaccines, supplements, vitamins or other remedies for COVID-19 for home use*
- Any treatment needs to be monitored and discussed with your health care provider



* As of recording date

COVID Remedies/Treatments?

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ARE THERE SUPPLEMENTS OR OTHER REMEDIES TO TREAT COVID-19?

📅 APRIL 20, 2020


Researchers and health care professionals are working around the clock to find effective treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. In the meantime, the news and “health experts” are trying to fill the gaps by announcing potential treatments, including some supplements and other remedies.



Facts About Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine

📅 MARCH 26, 2020

The drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine have been in the news recently, associated with COVID-19 or the coronavirus. At Missouri Poison Center, we want to clear up some of the myths surrounding these drugs and give you the facts.



Oleander and Oleandrin: Not a Safe Plant or Supplement

Oleander is a large tropical bush or small tree with purple, pink, or white flowers. It may be used as an ornamental patio plant in Missouri gardens but grows naturally along highways in the Southern United States and in Hawaii. Although oleander is decorative and pretty, all parts of the plant, including the flowers, leaves, nectar and sap contain a dangerous poison.



FACTS ABOUT IVERMECTIN

📅 APRIL 17, 2020

Everyone is anxious to find medications that work for the treatment of COVID-19. In the last several weeks, there have been studies to show possible benefits of certain medications already on the market for other diseases.

Cleaners & Disinfectants



Cleaners and Disinfectants

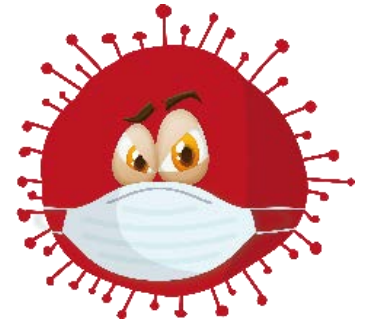
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- Increase in disinfectant calls by **44%** this year
- Cleaners and disinfectants have always been a common poison for poison centers
- We all have these products in our house/workplace
 - Frequent, regular use
 - Misuse and mishandling
 - Poor storage



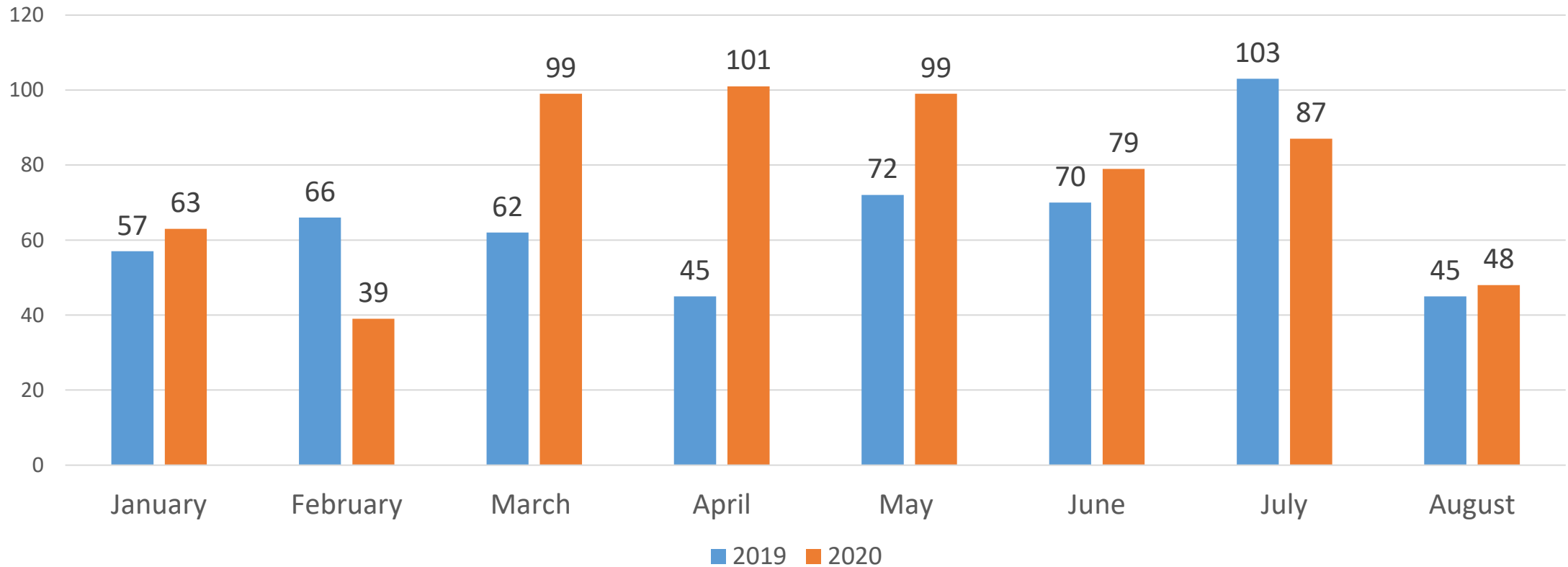
What's the Difference?



	Cleaning	Sanitizing	Disinfecting
What does it do?	Removes dirt and impurities from surface	Germ count is lowered	Germs are killed
Uses	Most surfaces	Household surfaces, food contact surfaces	Household surfaces, medical settings
Effective against	Can remove germs but not kill them	Some Bacteria	Bacteria, fungi, certain viruses

Bleach and COVID-19

Bleach Counts 2019 vs. 2020



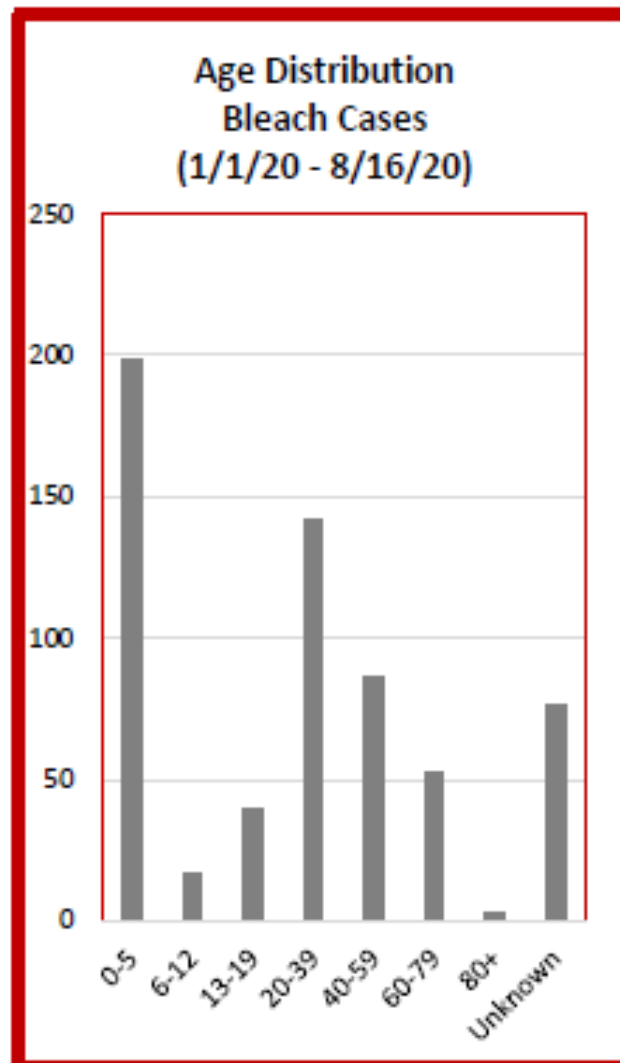
Bleach and COVID-19

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Use These Products Safely

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- Open windows and ventilate
- Wear gloves, if possible
- Read and follow label directions and dilutions
- Do not use cleaning products on food or body surfaces



Signal Words

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CAUTION	Slightly toxic either orally, dermally, or through inhalation; causes slight eye or skin irritation.
WARNING	Moderately toxic either orally, dermally, or through inhalation; causes moderate eye or skin irritation.
DANGER	Can cause severe eye damage or skin irritation.
DANGER-POISON	Highly toxic by any route of entry into the body.

Some Things Just Don't Mix

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DO NOT MIX THESE CLEANING PRODUCTS

BLEACH + VINEGAR

Bleach and vinegar mixture produces chlorine gas, which can cause coughing, breathing problems, burning and watery eyes.



BLEACH + AMMONIA

Bleach and ammonia produce a toxic gas called chloramine. It causes shortness of breath and chest pain.



BLEACH + RUBBING ALCOHOL

Bleach and rubbing alcohol makes chloroform, which is highly toxic.



HYDROGEN PEROXIDE + VINEGAR

This combination makes peracetic/peroxyacetic acid, which can be highly corrosive



Safe Storage

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- Remember: there is no such thing as CHILD-PROOF
- Store all cleaning supplies and chemicals up and away and out of reach from children.
- Don't store cleaning or pesticide products near your food items.
- Do not transfer chemicals to unmarked containers or beverage bottles – all too often, this leads to somebody accidentally swallowing it.



Hand Sanitizer



Hand Sanitizer

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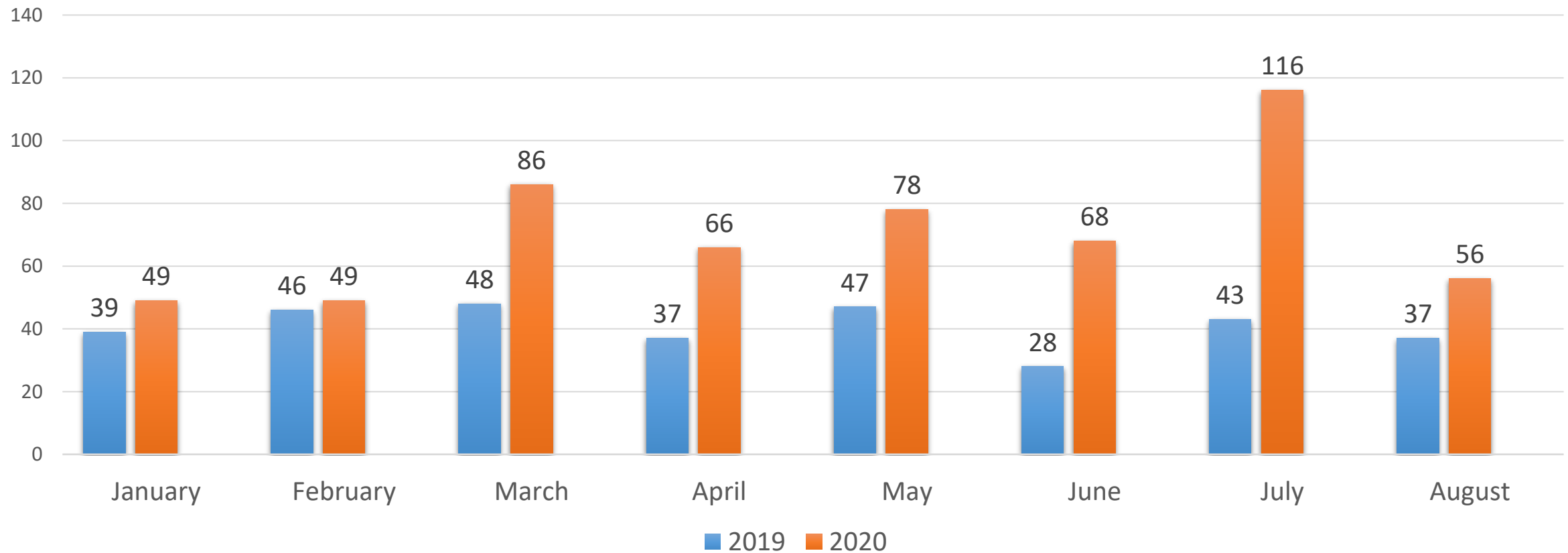
- Increase in hand sanitizer calls by **75%** with ages 0-5 years as biggest culprits
- High alcohol content
- Often hand sanitizer is not safely stored

Hand Sanitizer and COVID-19

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Hand Sanitizer Counts 2019 vs. 2020



Safe Storage and Use

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- Supervise children when using hand sanitizer
- Only use a dime-sized amount and rub in until dry
- Watch your eyes!
- Keep bottles up high and out of sight of children
- Avoid having young children carry or keep small bottles on their backpack or in their room



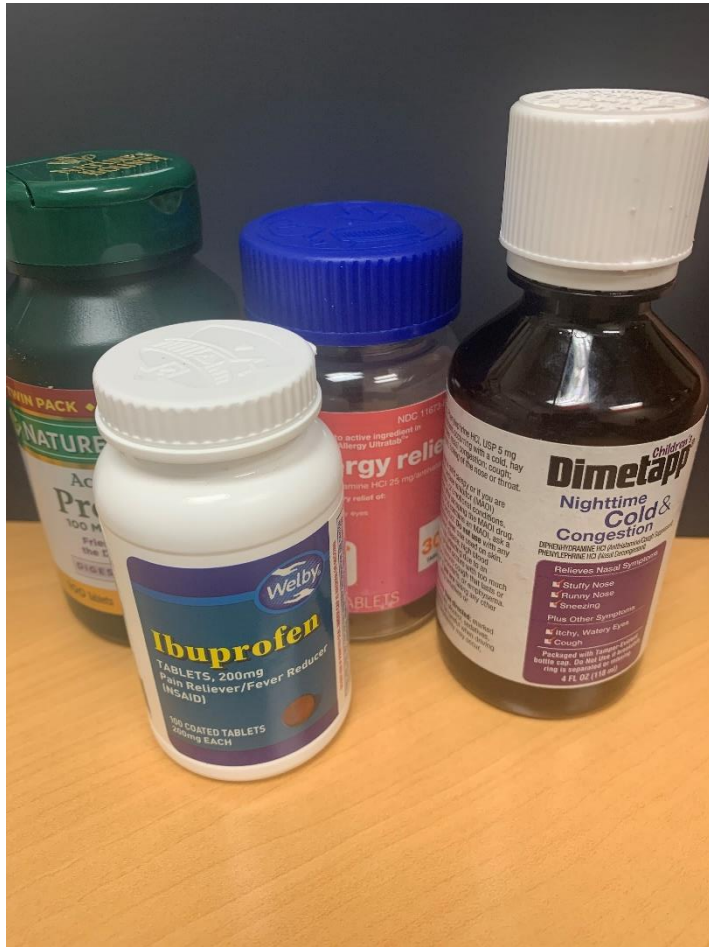
Medication



Medication: What's the Big Deal?

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- Change in routine = Increased medicine mistakes
- More people are taking medicines
- Added stress and distraction
- Poor communication between parents/caregivers

Safe Storage of Medication

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- Always keep medicine in a medication container, ideally the original container
- Keep medicine up, away and out of sight
- Medications for different family members should be kept separately
- If it needs to be stored in a fridge, make sure to keep it separate from food



Medicine and Kids

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- Remember: there is no such thing as CHILD-PROOF
- Take your own medicine where children can't watch
- Don't call medicine candy
- Use the measuring devices that comes with the medicine
- Teach children to ask before touching or tasting anything that they find on their own



Despair



Pandemic Upon an Epidemic

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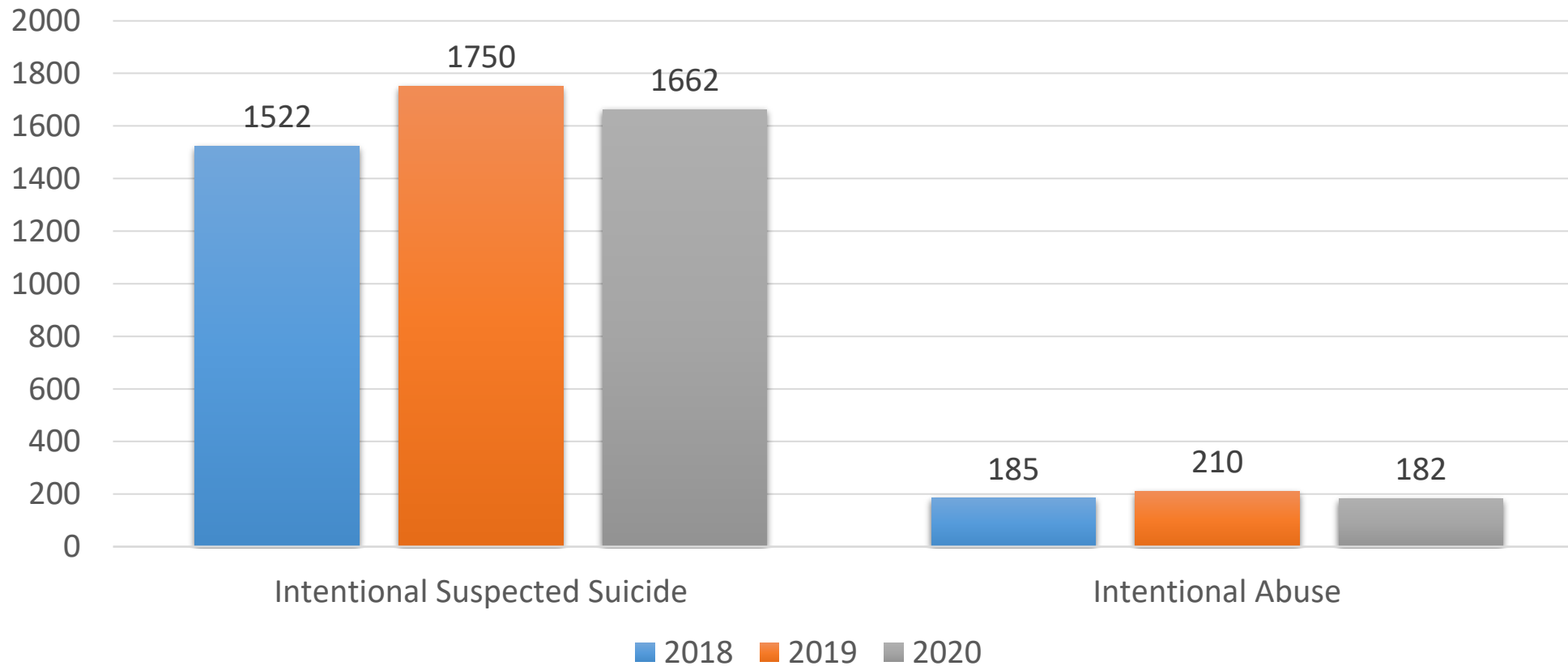
- Self-harm attempts
- Harmful substance abuse
- More challenges maintaining and accessing treatment
- Fear of seeking medical treatment
- More are using substances alone



Suicide and Abuse



Teens and Reason for Exposure



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TRENDING POISON TOPICS

IS THIS A POISON?

EDUCATION

ORDER MATERIALS

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Educators

Education is key to prevention. The Missouri Poison Center welcomes teachers, child care providers, scout leaders, EMS providers and other community educators to use these free downloadable resources to teach about poison safety.

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<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/education/educators/pre-k/>

TRENDING POISON TOPICS IS THIS A POISON? EDUCATION ORDER MATERIALS ABOUT US CONTACT US **LIVE CHAT**

Pre-K

Young children are curious by nature and their budding imagination is in over-drive! These lesson plans are geared to interactively teach preschool students about poison prevention.

Lesson Plans

In the Home

Children will learn to identify items in the home that aren't safe and know to stay away!

[Go To Lesson](#)

Danger Outdoors

Children will learn not to touch, taste, or smell plants or insects that may be poisonous.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Can Good Things be Bad for You?

Some things like medicine are confusing to young children. This lesson will help students to understand that even good things like medicine can be bad if they are used in the wrong way.

[Go To Lesson](#)

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<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/education/educators/k-2/>



K – 2

Curious minds can be a fantastic thing, especially in young students. But curiosity can also be dangerous if not pointed in the right direction. These lesson plans are geared to teach students how to identify potentially poisonous items and how to avoid them.

Lesson Plans

Types of Poisons

Children will learn through an interactive game that poison can come in solids, liquids, gases, and sprays. They will learn that they should never play with, touch, smell, or taste poisons.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Poison Investigator

Children will become Poison Investigators by looking through picture magazines or ads to find items that may be poisonous. They will learn that they should never play with, touch, smell, or taste poisons.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Just Suppose

Children will play a game of Just Suppose where they will imagine what they should do when they see a poison. They will learn that they should never play with, touch, smell, or taste poisons.

[Go To Lesson](#)

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<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/education/educators/3-4/>



3 - 4

Older children are building independence and problem solving skills in their daily lives, but this learning is still growing. These lessons are designed to teach growing students about poisons in their home, look-alike poisons, and how to stay safe from possible poisons.

Lesson Plans

Poisons in the Home

Many students do not think that they have poisonous items in their home. This lesson will teach students what types of things are poisonous and how to keep themselves and others safe.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Beware of Look-Alikes

Can you tell the difference between a safe or possible poisonous item? This lesson will teach students to watch out for poison look-alikes.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Read That Label

Labels on medications and other cleaning and household products often have confusing directions. If used in the wrong way they might be dangerous. This lesson teaches how to look for key words on labels to make sure these products are used safely.


[Go To Lesson](#)

Poison Prevention Lesson Plans

<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/education/educators/teens-tweens/>

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Tweens & Teens

While many teens and tweens are bombarded with information on a daily basis, filtering fact from fiction can be a daunting task for young minds. These lesson plans are geared to help highlight common issues and concerns for teens.

Lesson Plans

Vaping

Vaping can be dangerous and difficult to quit, especially for teens. This lesson will help educate teens about vaping and its potential health hazards.

[Go To Lesson](#)

Medicines Aren't for Mixing

While prescription and OTC medicines are tested for safety, combining these with other medicines or substances can have dangerous consequences. This lesson will help teach students to understand the concepts of active ingredients and side effects.

[Go To Lesson](#)

OTC Medicine Safety for Tweens

Students will learn about some of the risks associated with over use or misuse of OTC medicines. This lesson plan offers guided discussion questions and additional resources.

[Go To Lesson](#)

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as a contact in
your phone:
Poison Help Line:
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Questions?

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