

# CDC's Partnership with Poison Control Centers

## Did you know?

*CDC works with poison centers to protect the nation from public health threats.*

Roughly every 8 minutes, call data from poison centers across the country are uploaded to a national reporting database and electronic surveillance system called the National Poison Data System (NPDS). CDC and the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) use the database to improve surveillance of chemical exposures and public health hazards.

CDC and AAPCC scientists monitor NPDS every day, watching for any data anomalies that may represent incidents of potential public health significance such as outbreaks of illness. They are ready to spring into action to assist with further activities such as surveillance and/or conducting a public health investigation if needed.

## Improving Consumer Safety for Laundry Pods

From May 17, 2012–June 17, 2012, poison centers across the country **reported** 485 cases of children being exposed to detergent filled laundry pods. The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) partnered with AAPCC and poison centers in Charlotte and Philadelphia to investigate this public health threat. Their work helped contribute to the decision by the largest manufacturer of laundry detergent pods in the United States to add a double latch lid safety feature to their containers. Manufacturers have also worked with poison centers to study risk factors and health outcomes linked to laundry detergent pods exposures.



MMWR report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm6141.pdf>



## Reporting Poisoning from Electronic Cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, are a type of device that allow users to inhale an aerosol that typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and other additives. While long-term impacts of these products on public health remain uncertain, one area of concern is the increase in poisoning related to e-cigarettes. A CDC **study** found that 2,405 e-cigarette exposures were reported to poison centers from September 2010 to February 2014. This work informed a number of public health actions including the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act of 2015, which was enacted in January 2016. This law requires

any container of liquid nicotine that is sold, manufactured, distributed, or imported into the United States to be placed in packaging that is difficult for children under 5 years of age to open.

MMWR report: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6313a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6313a4\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6313a4.htm?s_cid=mm6313a4_w).

## Increasing Awareness of Synthetic Cannabinoids

CDC launched an investigation in April 2015 after being alerted to an increase in poison center calls related to synthetic cannabinoids, also known as synthetic marijuana. The results, **published in MMWR**, led to a surge in media coverage on this issue that created a broader awareness of issues and dangers of using synthetic cannabinoids.



MMWR report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6422a5.htm>



## Shedding Light on the Dangers of Hand Sanitizers

In March 2017, *MMWR* published a **report** that described reports of exposure to alcohol-based hand sanitizer in children. Analyzing reports from poison centers across the country, CDC scientists uncovered health risks to younger children and possible emerging product of abuse for older children. Their findings shed light on the potential dangers of hand sanitizers and the need for better safety precautions and supervision for the children who use them.

MMWR report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm66o8a5.htm>

## Learn More

Learn more about CDC's National Chemical and Radiological Surveillance Program and their work with poison control centers across the country: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/chemicals/nrcs.htm>.

CDC welcomes the opportunity to work with state and local health officials and health practitioners if they suspect an outbreak.