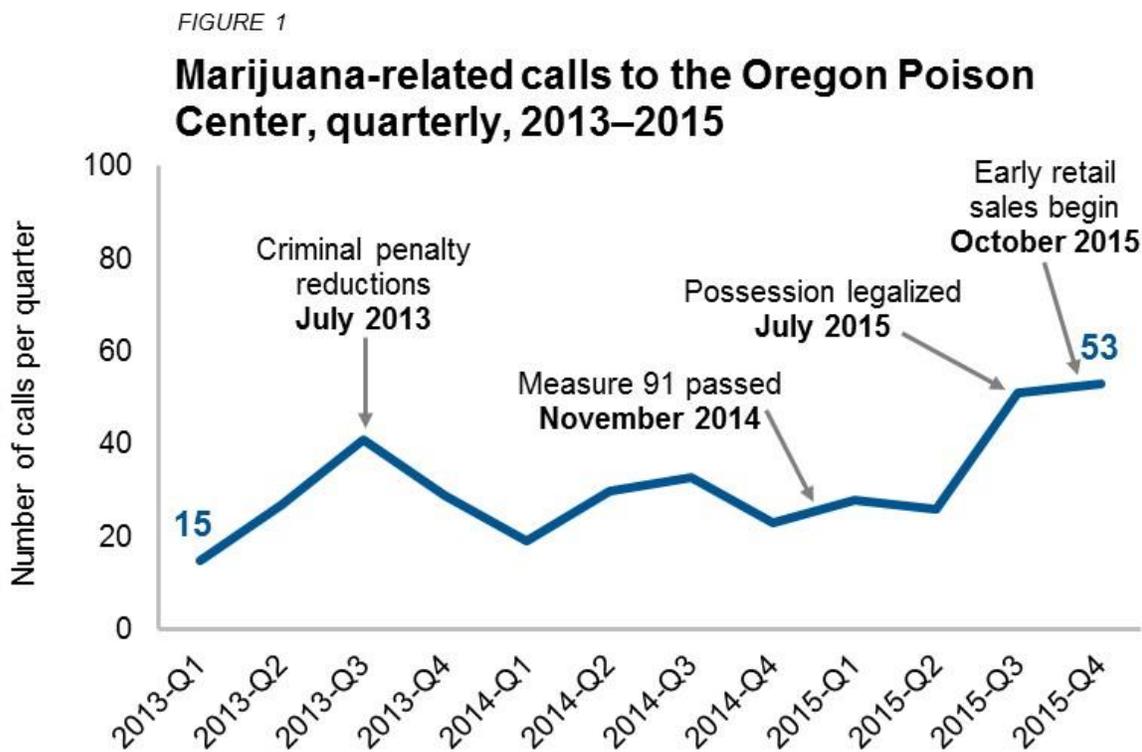


Health Behaviors

Marijuana-related calls to the Oregon poison center

Medical marijuana has been legal in Oregon since 1998. In November 2014, voters approved legalized retail (non-medical) marijuana with licensing of retailers to begin in October 2016. The Oregon Public Health Division monitors marijuana use, attitudes and health effects. Marijuana-related calls to the Oregon Poison Center are an important measure of acute adverse health effects and accidental poisonings from marijuana use.

Marijuana-related calls to the Oregon Poison Center were stable from 2013 through mid-2015 and increased in the second half of 2015 (Figure 1). In 2013, the Oregon Poison Center received 112 calls related to adverse marijuana events; in 2015 the Poison Center received 158 calls.

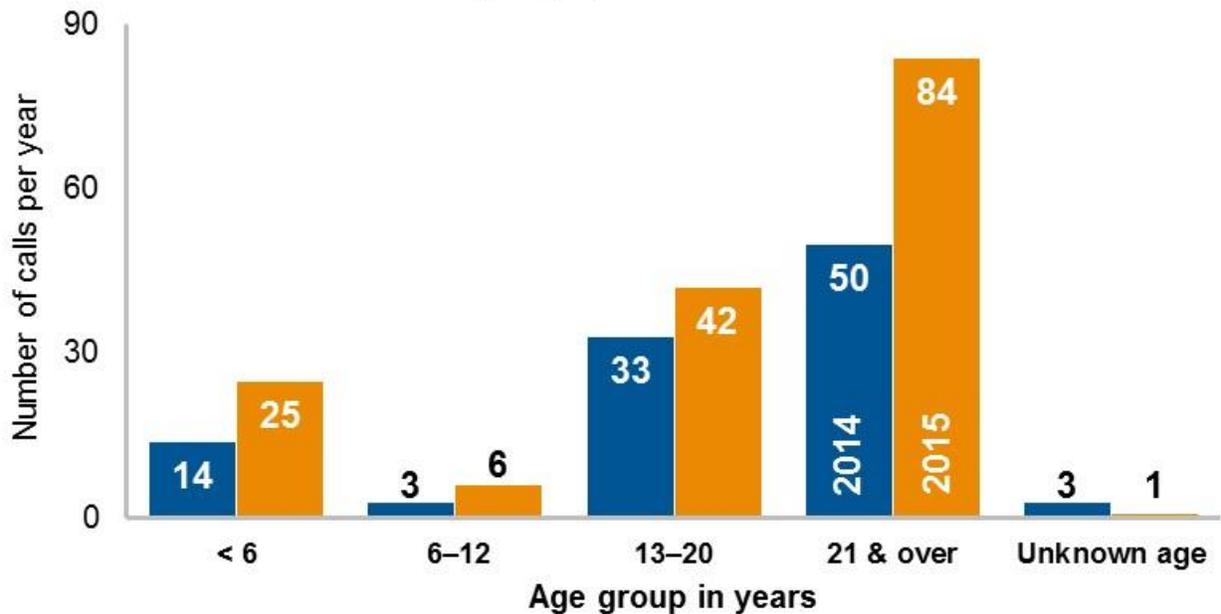


Source: Toxic Exposure Surveillance System, Oregon Poison Center, Oregon Health & Science University, 2013-2015

There were more calls in 2015 than in 2014 among all known age groups (Figure 2). The number of annual exposure calls for children younger than age 13 increased from 17 calls in 2014 to 31 calls in 2015. Among all poison center calls for children younger than age 13, the proportion related to marijuana increased from 12% in 2013 to 20% in 2015 (not shown).

FIGURE 2

Annual marijuana-related calls to the Oregon Poison Center by age, 2014–2015



Source: Toxic Exposure Surveillance System, Oregon Poison Center, Oregon Health & Science University

Additional Resources: More information about the [Oregon Poison Center](#). Additional marijuana are data available in the [Oregon Marijuana Report](#).

About the Data: Toxic Exposure Surveillance System, Oregon Poison Center, Oregon Health & Science University, 2013-2015.

Human marijuana exposure calls to the Oregon Poison Center were determine by the presence of the generic codes '0083000', '02000618', and '0083000' for marijuana, and '02000618' for THC pharmaceuticals. Each call reported represents one exposure; calls that discuss exposures for two people would be counted twice.

The Oregon Poison Center 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. Statistical data from the Oregon Poison Center is

obtained through custom data queries of Toxicall. De-identified data elements from each poison center in the United States are transmitted to the National Poison Data System. THE National Poison Data System enables queries of national aggregate poison center data.

Overall Oregon Poison Center call levels declined slightly during the years presented in this report; there were 40,902 total calls in 2013, 39,949 in 2014 and 39,657 in 2015.

It is important to consider that legalization may result in increased reporting of marijuana-related exposures to the Oregon Poison Center because people may feel more comfortable discussing recent use of marijuana due to decreased stigma and legal consequences.

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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