



FACT SHEET

Laundry Pod Exposure Calls to Poison Centers

Calls to all US Poison Centers

2012 6,343
2013 8,915
2014 10,395

Calls to the Upstate New York Poison Center

2012 5
2013 216
2014 176 (to date)

Laundry pods can harm children

- Laundry Pods are brightly colored and therefore attractive to young children
- 74% of exposures occur to children age 3 and under
- 80% of these calls are ingestions
- Eye injuries also occur, due to plastic packaging, causing painful scratches in the eye
- Most often children bite into the pod. First they gag, often followed by an extended period of vomiting
- A child's heart rate and breathing rate can decrease
- Child can appear lethargic

MAKE THE CALL

- If your child gets into a laundry pod or anything that might poison your child, call the Upstate New York Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222
- Registered nurses, trained in toxicology will ask a few questions to determine the best treatment options
- Simple as making a phone call
- Most calls to a poison center do not result in trip to an emergency facility as they can be managed at home
- However, if the best treatment option is to seek help in an emergency facility, the poison center will help direct the caller

TIPS

- Keep laundry pods out of the sight and reach of children
- Do not store a pod on a washing machine, dryer or counter or in an unattended laundry basket for even 1 minute
- If your child gets into a laundry pod, call the poison center