UPSTATE
NEW YORK
POISON CENTER
1-800-222-1222

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Volume 1: Inaugural Edition

Toxicity Talk: Expert Insights for Healthcare Professionals

🌎 **IN THIS ISSUE**

Hey there!

The Upstate New York Poison Center is re-launching our toxicology newsletter geared towards healthcare professionals. This will be a quarterly newsletter highlighting emerging trends.

Please share this with your colleagues and do not hesitate to contact us with any potential topics to include in upcoming newsletters.

Clinical Director
Jeanna Marraffa, PharmD, MPH, DABAT, FAACT

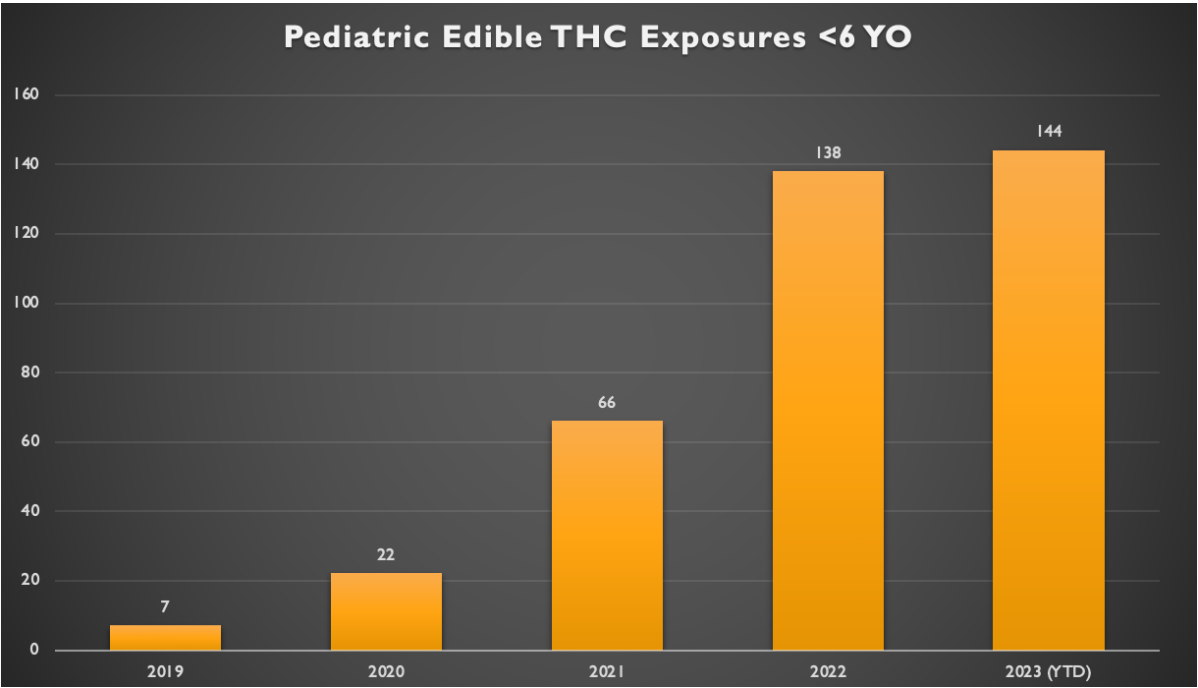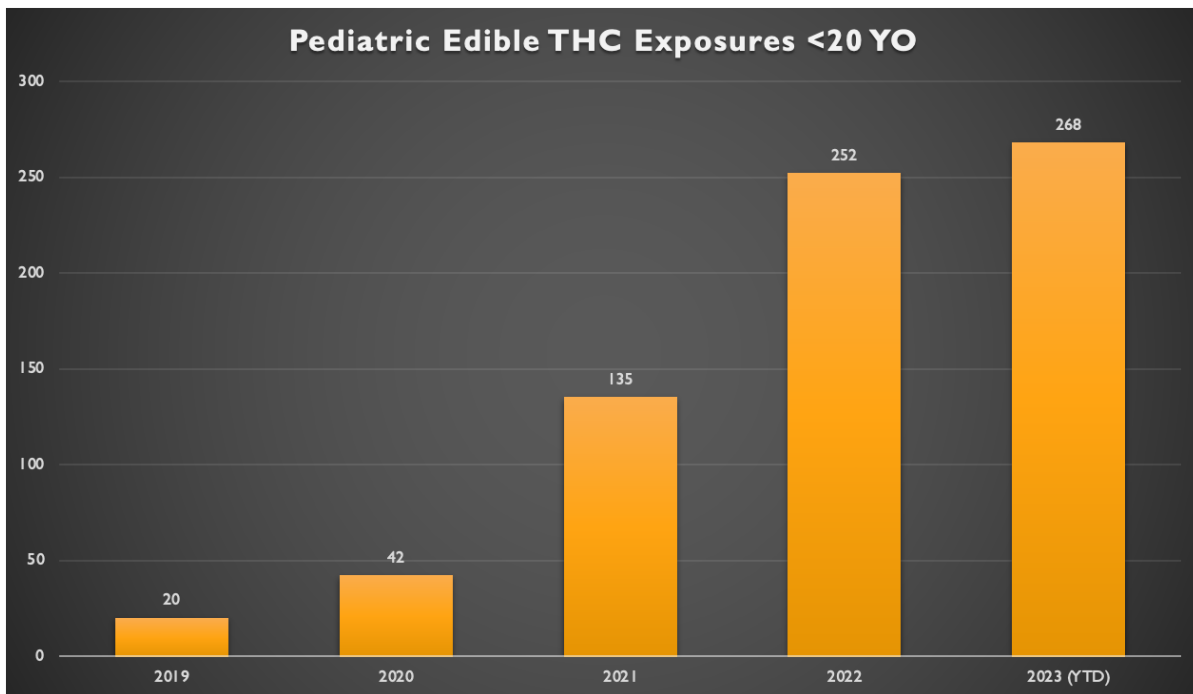*Jeanna Marraffa*

🌎 **EMERGING TRENDS**

Cannabis

Edible cannabis products are becoming more widely available and come in a variety of forms. Several products are in packaging that appear like candy or other food products. Depending on the specific product, the concentration of THC is variable and can be as high as 500 mg. Due to this relative increase in access and availability, the Upstate New York Poison Center has seen a dramatic increase in the number of unintentional pediatric ingestions, especially in children less than 5 years old. Symptoms can range from lethargy to coma and can last for prolonged periods of time. Though rare, seizures have been reported especially after large ingestions. Care of these patients is largely supportive, and many patients require ICU admission due to the severity of their symptoms.

Consumers need the message that edible cannabis products are a threat, especially to young children, and should store these products, as they would with any medication, up and away, and preferably in a medication lock box. Medication lock boxes come in a variety of forms and can range from $8-$20. They can be purchased in retail stores and online. Encourage patients to buy a lock box to store their cannabis products.

If you have a child with suspected cannabis ingestion, please call our poison center. Not only can we provide treatment recommendations, but it is also imperative we have real-time surveillance on these products to better inform agencies and

companies with the hope of improved packaging requirements and accurate labeling of milligram quantities.

Pediatric Edible THC Exposures <6 YO

Pediatric Edible THC Exposures <20 YO

Year	Value
2019	20
2020	42
2021	135
2022	252
2023 (YTD)	268

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuel. Common sources of CO poisoning include portable generators, gas furnaces, poorly ventilated home heating systems, and vehicles.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Each year, **more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires, more than 100,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 14,000 are hospitalized**.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and syncope. Treatment includes high-flow oxygen therapy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy depending on the severity of toxicity.

How can healthcare providers help?

- Don't forget to think about CO poisoning in patients with altered mental status of unclear etiology
- Remind your patients to get CO detectors for their homes
- The poison center is always available at 1-800-222-1222

DANGER!

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING

CAN'T BE **SEEN**

CAN'T BE **SMELLED**

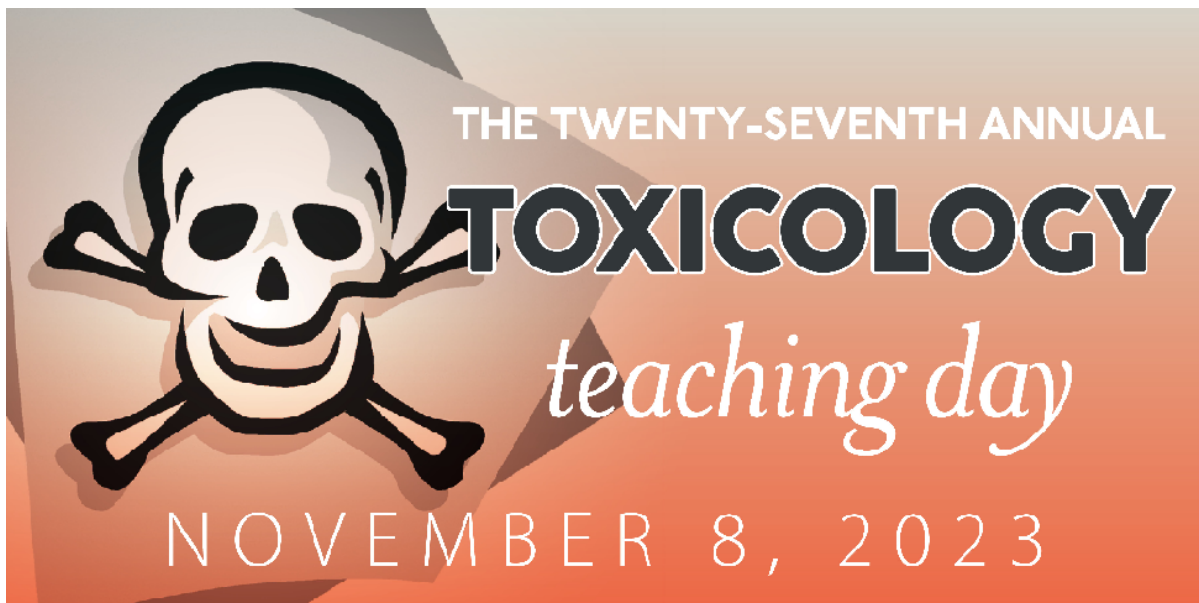CAN'T BE **HEARD**

CAN BE **STOPPED**

📅 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL

TOXICOLOGY *teaching day*

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

27th Annual Toxicology Teaching Day

November 8th, 2023, at The Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center

Register

Toxicology ECHO Sessions

In collaboration with Upstate Medical University, we are hosting Toxicology ECHO sessions on a variety of topics.

NEXT ECHO: November 21st, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. on "Emerging Social Media Trends"

FUTURE DATES: Second Tuesday every other month; 12-1 p.m. starting in January

Full Schedule

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