

Access the entire webinar series here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/lessons-learned-in-healthcare-operations-during-a-pandemic-speaker-series-summary.pdf>

Access Ms. Weber's bio here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/poison-center-roles-during-the-pandemic-speaker-bio.pdf>

Access this webinar recording here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4905363792792380432>



Healthcare Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Speaker Series

September 2021

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
POISON CONTROL CENTERS

POISON CENTER ROLES DURING THE PANDEMIC

American Association of
Poison Control Centers



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I have no relevant financial relationships or conflicts to disclose.





Objectives

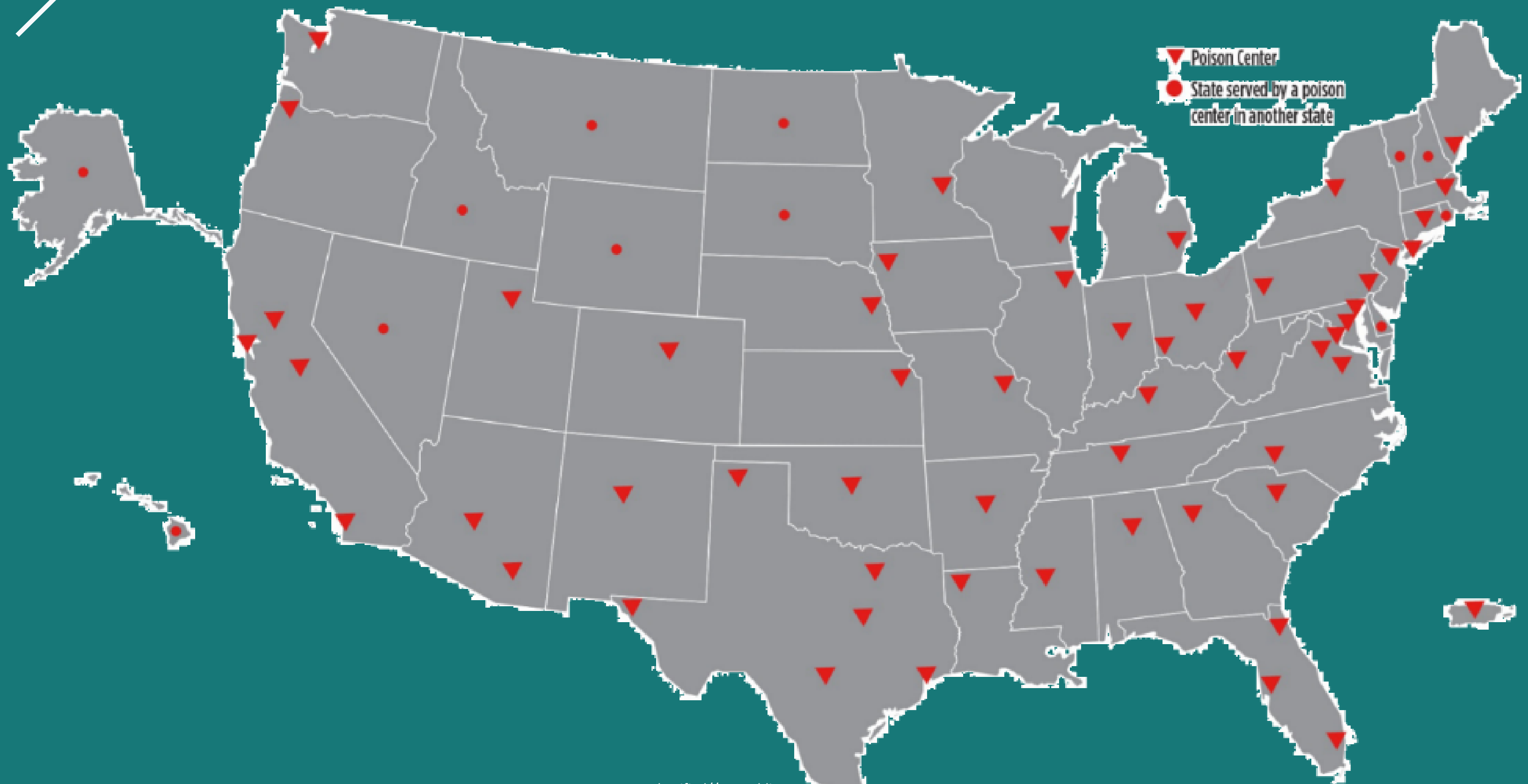
1. Understand the role of poison center in public health and response.
2. Describe how poison center toxicologists, specialists in poison information, and educators are integrated into disaster response.
3. Apply examples from previous disasters and public health events to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**READY
FOR
ANYTHING.
EVEN
2020.**

American Association of Poison Control Centers

- The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) is a national nonprofit organization representing each of the 55 poison control centers (PCCs) in the United States.
- AAPCC's mission is to actively advance the health care role and public health mission of its members through information, advocacy, education, and research.
- The 55 PCCs provide information and treatment advice, 24/7/365, through the national Poison Help Line & www.PoisonHelp.org website.

United States Poison Centers





Poison Help Line

1 (800) 222-1222

- The Poison Help Line covers 100% of the U.S. population; help is provided in 240 languages.
- Calls to Poison Help are free, confidential, and answered by clinical *experts*: specially trained nurses, toxicologists, pharmacists, and physicians.
- PCCs continuously upload case data into the National Poison Data System (NPDS)—the only near real-time comprehensive poisoning surveillance database in the U.S. on average over 9,000 cases/day.
- Education is conducted through national outreach efforts.

Poison Help Line Disaster Response

- H1N1 Influenza Response
- West Nile Virus
- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
- Fukushima
- Ebola



Poison Center Roles During the Pandemic

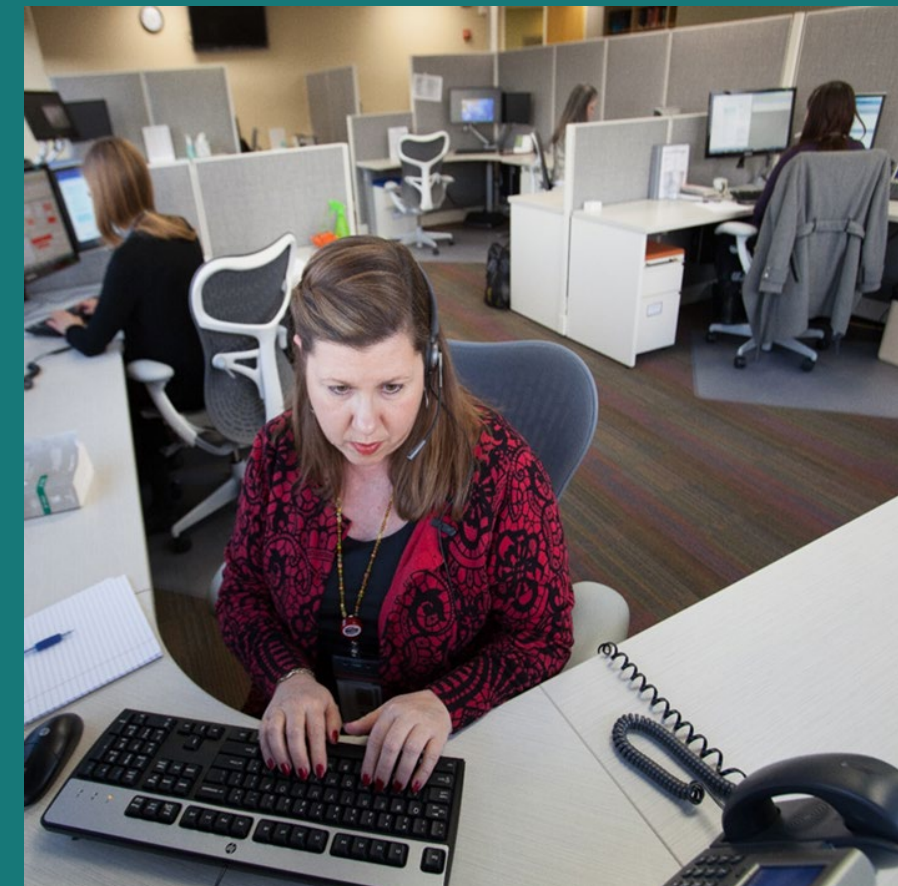
Background:

January 2020 - several poison centers become involved as the Coronavirus hotline for their state.

Why?

Poison centers stand ready

- Infrastructure in place
- 24/7/365
- Staffed by health care professionals
- Known and trusted resource



Poison Center Roles During the Pandemic

Public Health Presence:

- Established relationships with public health partners.

Calm the Chaos

- Coordinated to give consistent message.

Real-time feedback to the state about citizen concerns

- How can I get tested?
- How do I know if I've been exposed?
- What are the symptoms?



What is the Best Telephone Pathway to Answer Pandemic Questions?

Regular Poison Center Hotline vs New Separate Pandemic Line:

Reasons to use the National Toll-Free Hotline Number (800-222-1222)

- It is an established public information line
- Healthcare facilities already use the line

However.....

What is the Best Telephone Pathway to Answer Pandemic Questions?

New Separate Pandemic Line:

- It became evident immediately that a separate pandemic line was needed because of the growing number of pandemic calls.
- Enhanced workflow was needed to prioritize poison calls which is our primary mission.
- Due to the everchanging and complex information, a specific pandemic line was needed to focus on these COVID-19 issues.

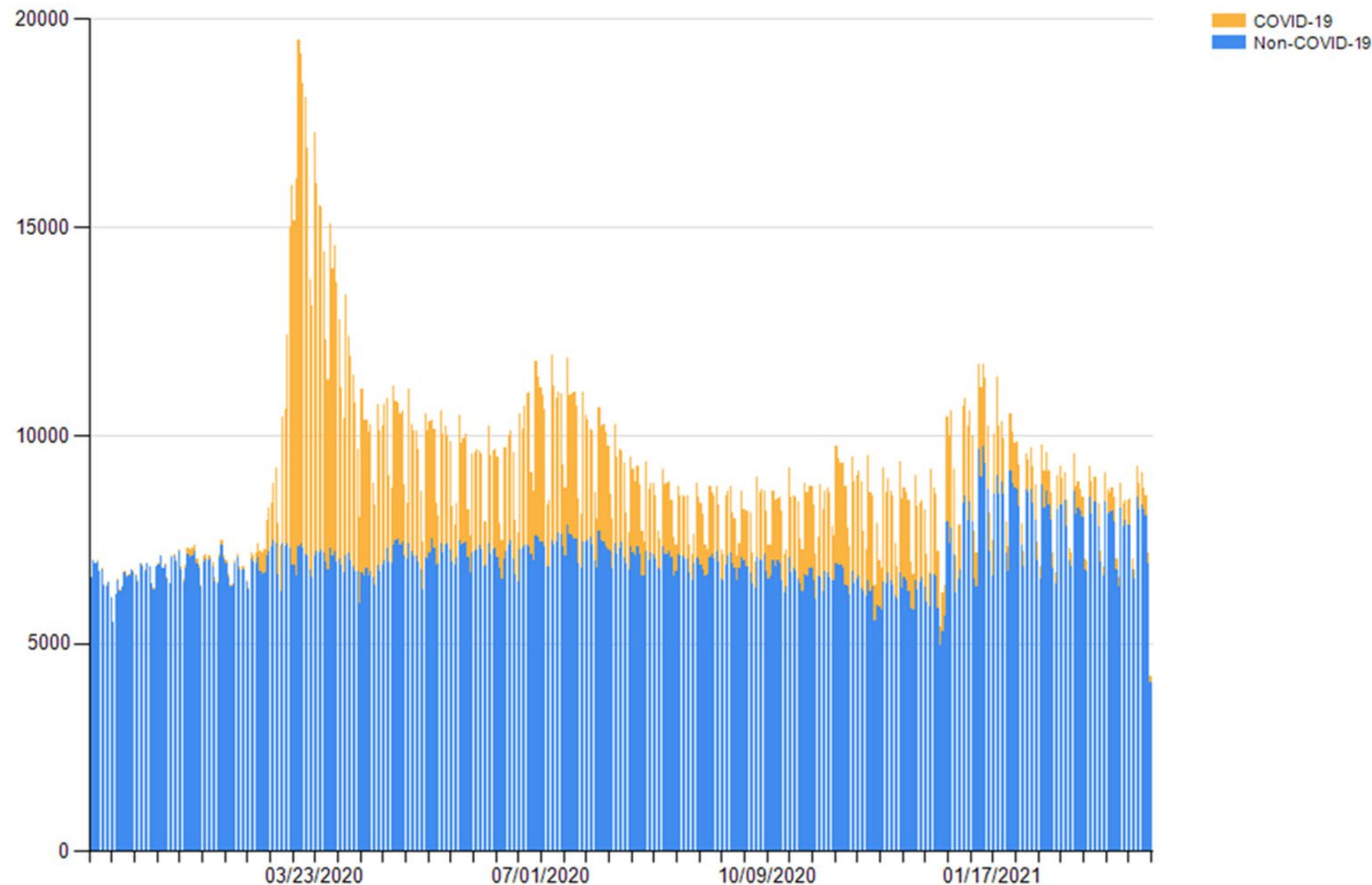
Telephone Contact is Not Enough

Options for contact:

- Online @ poisonhelp.org
- Telephone
- Texting
- Chatting
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System as an adjunct to hotline live response

Internet presence for prevention messaging

National Poison Data System (NPDS)

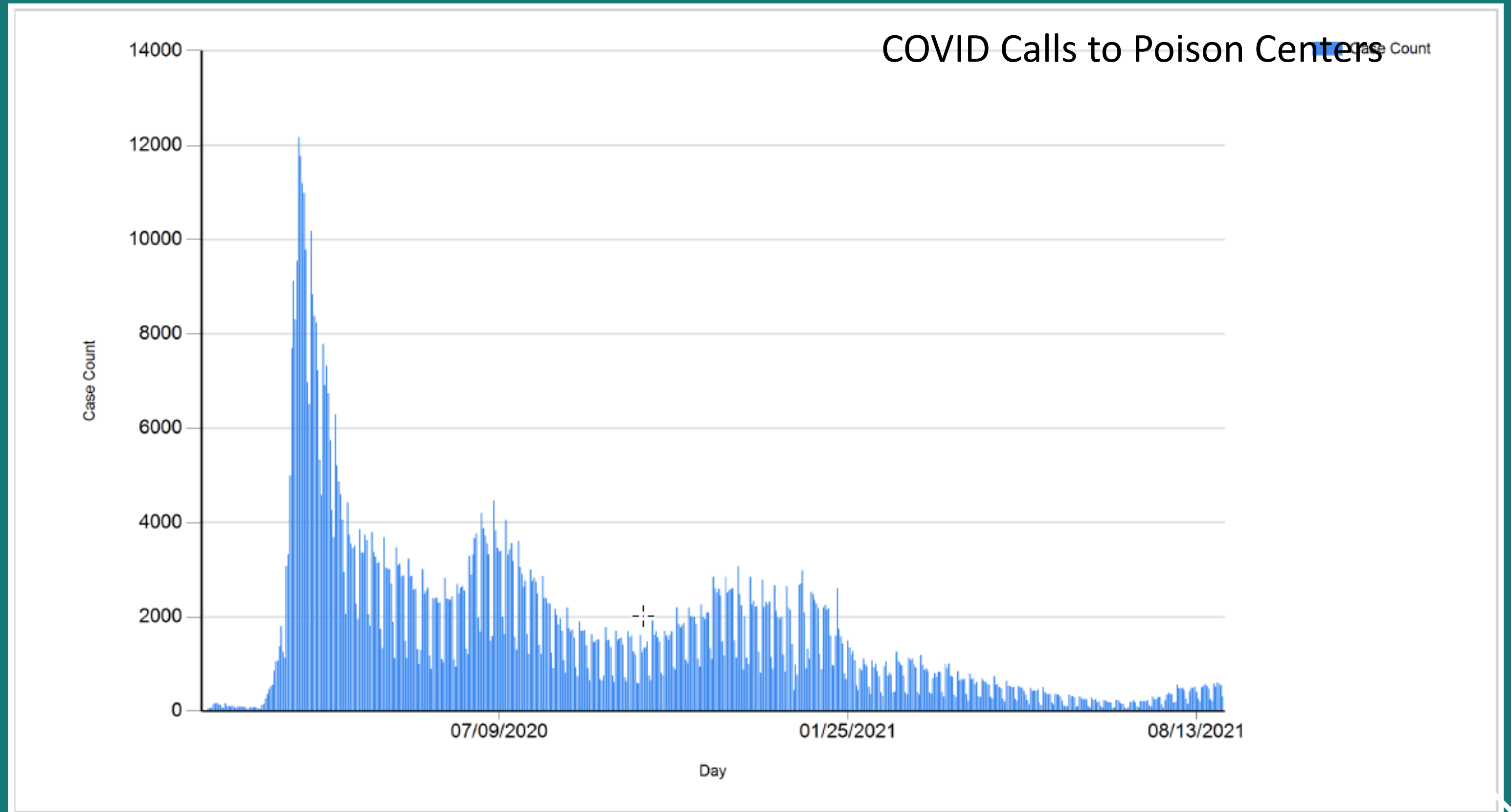


Every 8 minutes cases from each poison center uploaded to a central database

A national picture of case volumes for poison center and the pandemic [graph to the right]

- Peak Volume
- Poison Center Case Volumes

National Poison Data System (NPDS)



Toxicologic Trends during the Pandemic

- Hand Sanitizers
- Cleaners & Disinfectants
- Byproducts of Hypochlorite Bleach
Chloramine and Chlorine
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Soaps
- Mouthwashes
- Colloidal silver (immune supplement)
- Vitamin D
- Zinc
- Melatonin
- Antivirals
- Hydroxychloroquine/Chloroquine
- Ivermectin

Toxicologic Trends: Publications

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 — National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020

Arthur Chang, MD¹; Amy H. Schnall, MPH¹; Royal Law, PhD²; Alvin C. Bronstein, MD³; Jeanna M. Marraffa, PharmD⁴; Henry A. Spiller, MS⁵; Hannah L. Hays, MD⁵; Alexandra R. Funk, PharmD⁵; Maria Mercurio-Zappala, MS⁶; Diane P. Calello, MD⁷; Alfred Aleguas, PharmD⁸; Douglas J. Borys, PharmD⁹; Tegan Boehmer, PhD¹; Erik Svendsen, PhD¹

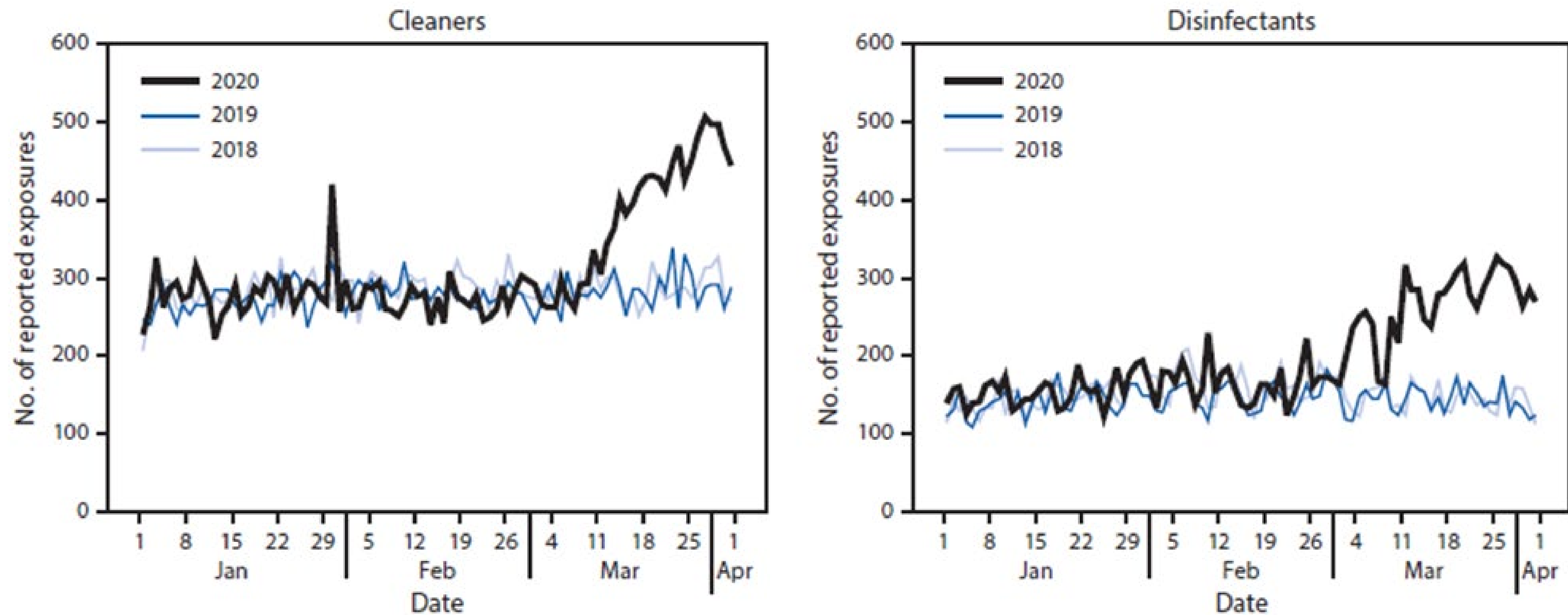
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Serious Adverse Health Events, Including Death, Associated with Ingesting Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers Containing Methanol — Arizona and New Mexico, May–June 2020

Luke Yip, MD¹; Danae Bixler, MD¹; Daniel E. Brooks, MD²; Kevin R. Clarke, MD¹; S. Deblina Datta, MD¹; Steven Dudley Jr., PharmD³; Kenneth K. Komatsu⁴; Jennifer N. Lind, PharmD¹; Annaliese Mayette, PhD⁵; Michael Melgar, MD¹; Talia Pindyck, MD¹; Kristine M. Schmit, MD¹; Steven A. Seifert, MD⁶; Farshad Mazda Shirazi, MD, PhD³; Susan C. Smolinske, PharmD⁷; Brandon J. Warrick, MD⁶; Arthur Chang, MD¹

Toxicologic Trends: Publications

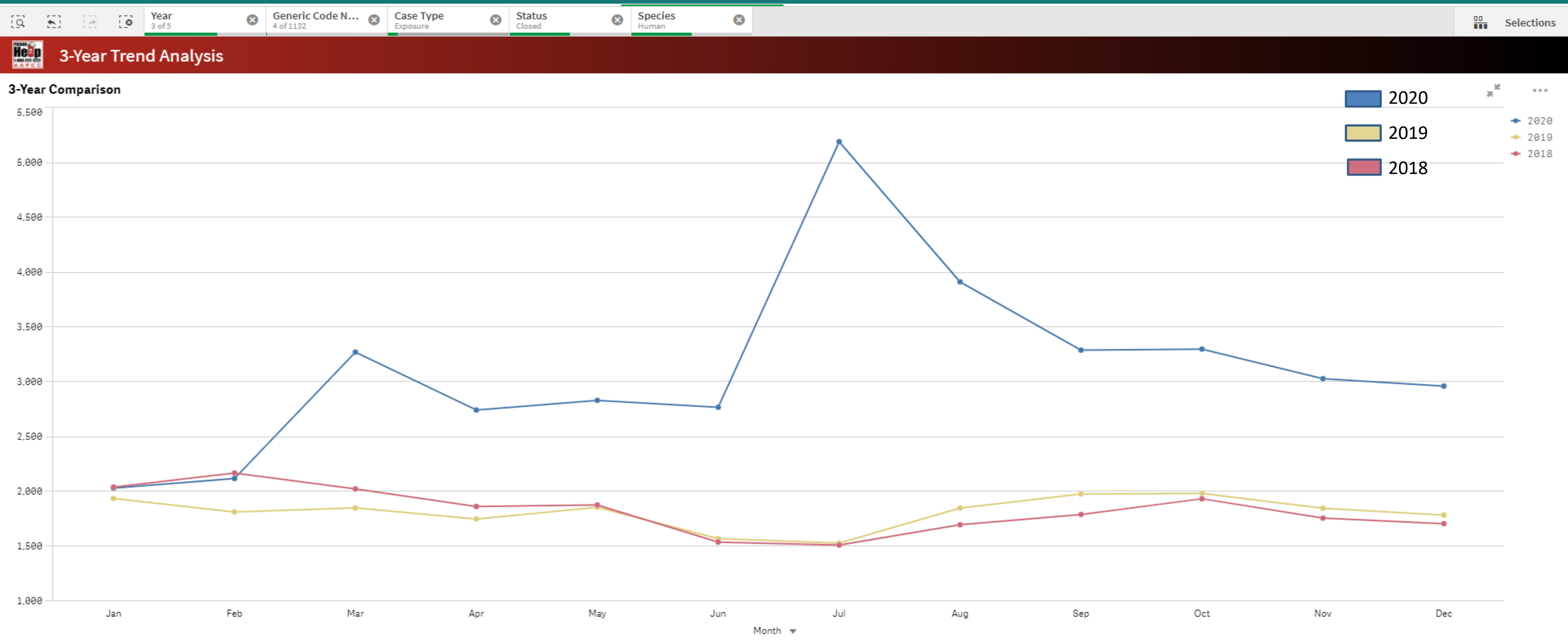
FIGURE. Number of daily exposures to cleaners and disinfectants reported to U.S. poison centers — United States, January–March 2018, 2019, and 2020*,†



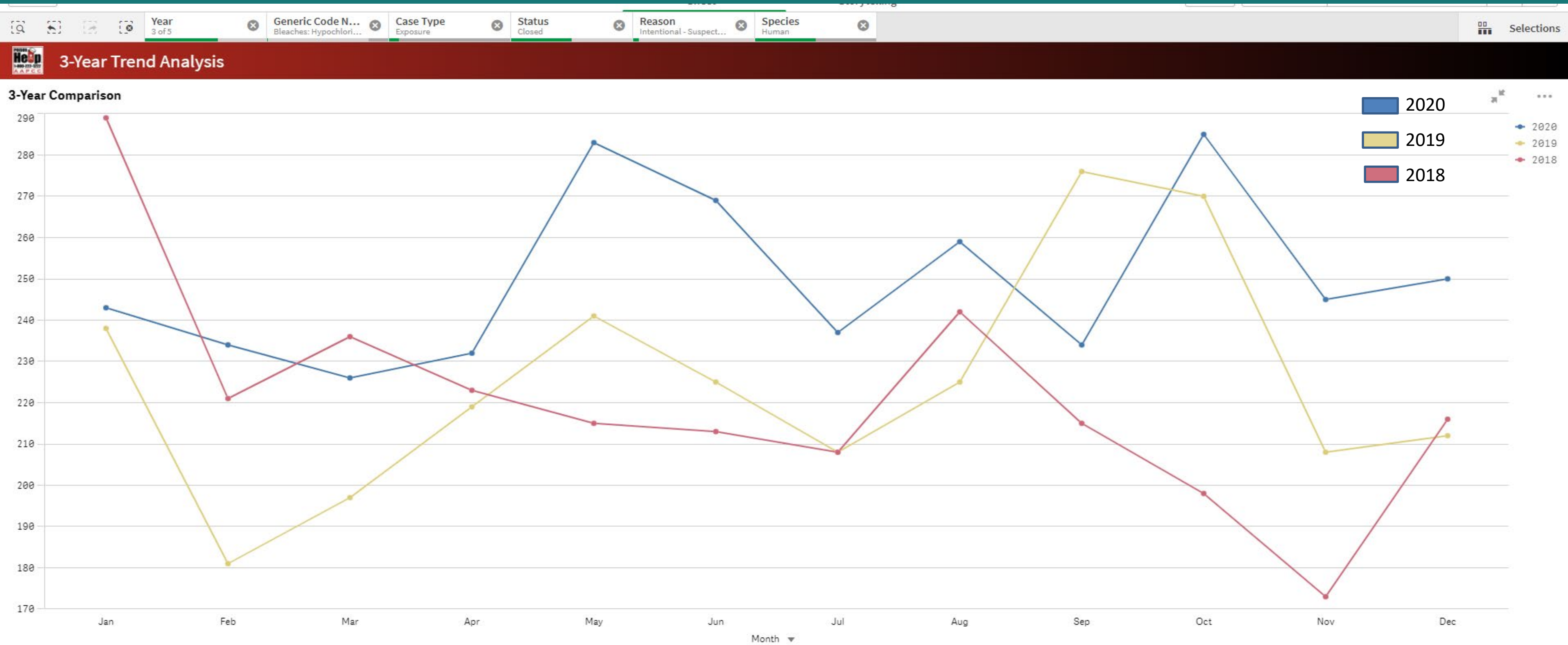
* Excluding February 29, 2020.

† Increase in exposures to cleaners on January 29, 2020, came from an unintentional exposure to a cleaning agent within a school.

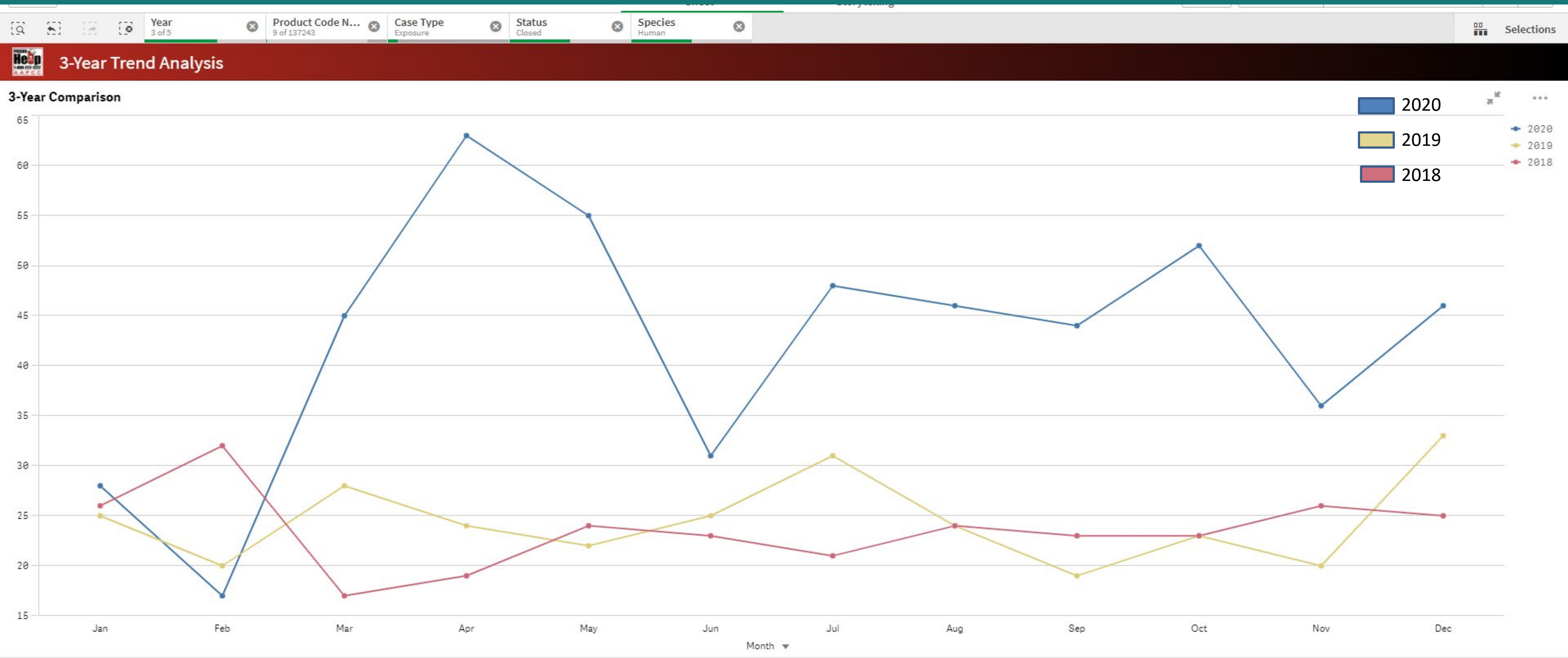
Hand Sanitizers Exposures: Ethanol, Isopropanol, Non-Alcohol, & Unknown



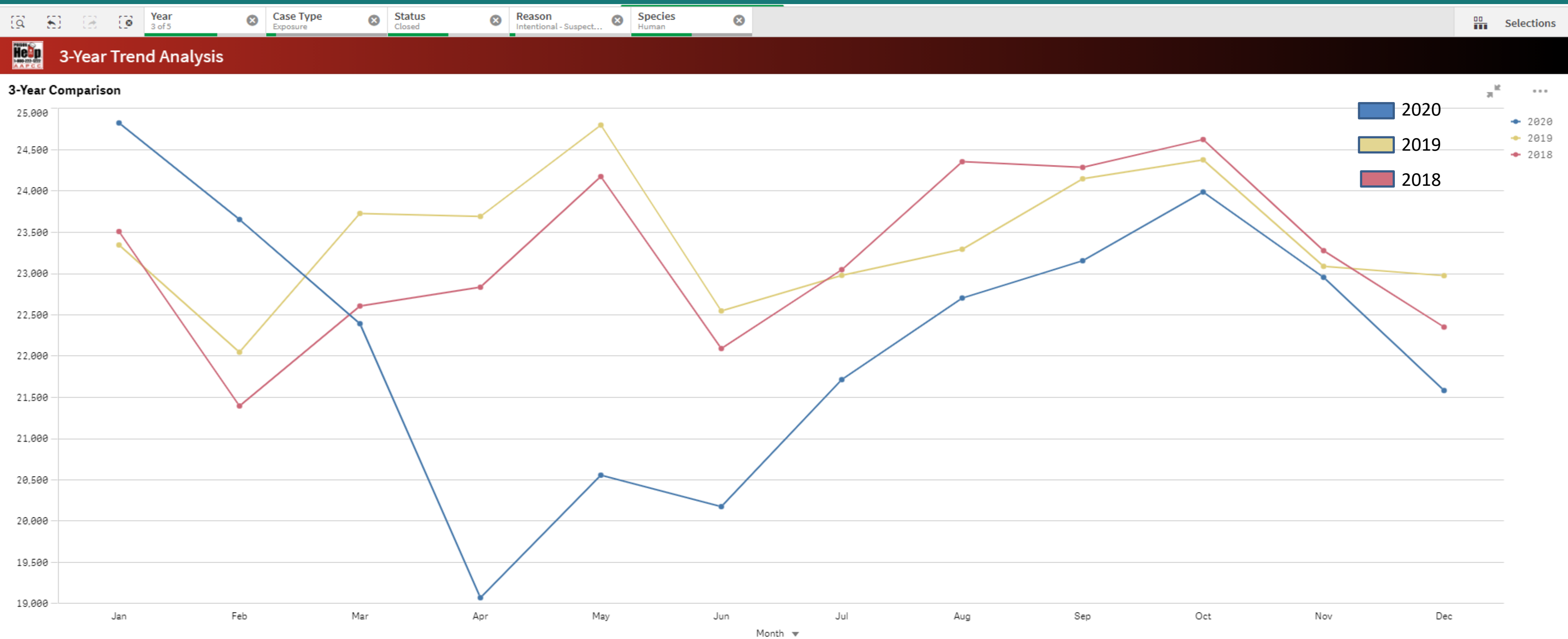
Household Bleach Exposures: Hypochlorite



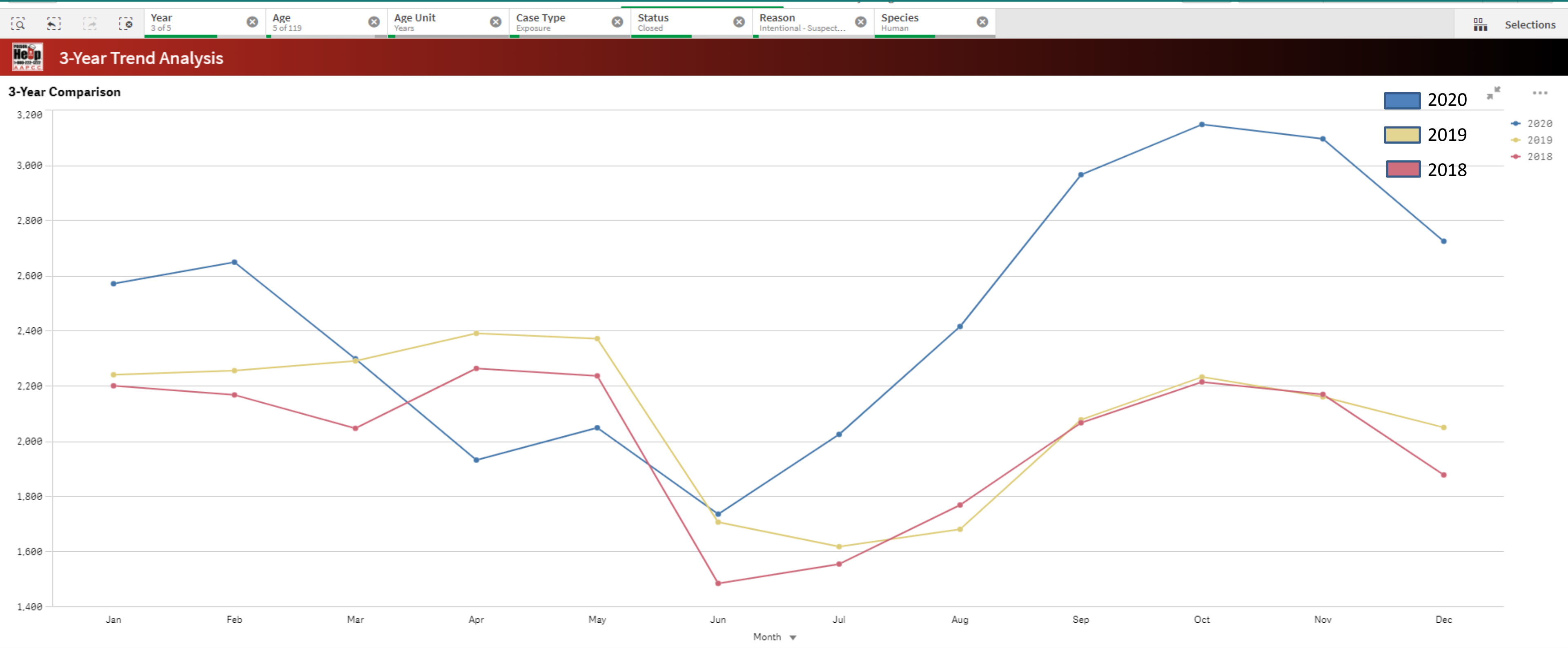
Hydroxychloroquine Exposures



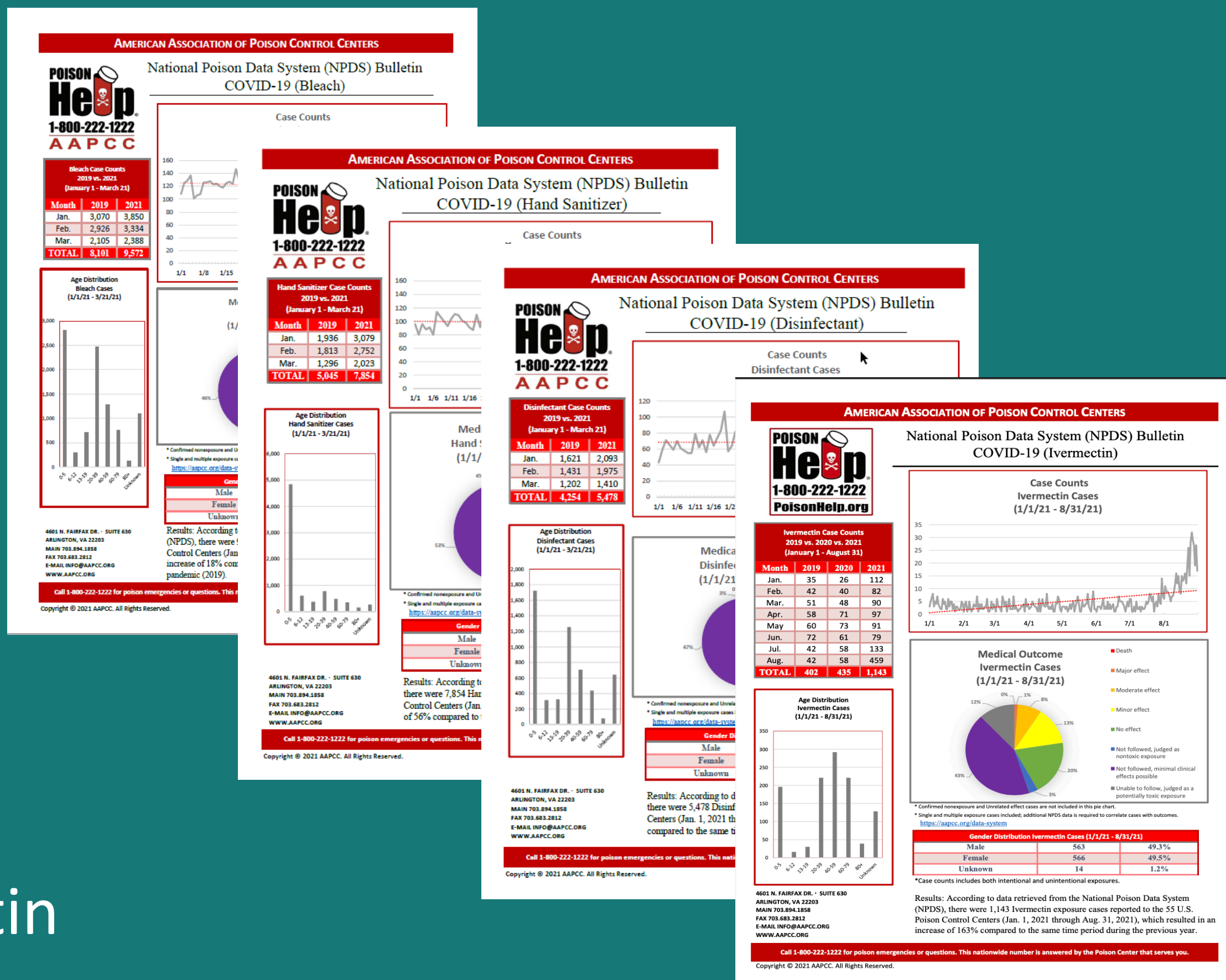
All Ages: Suicide Attempts



Age 10-14 years: Suicide Attempts



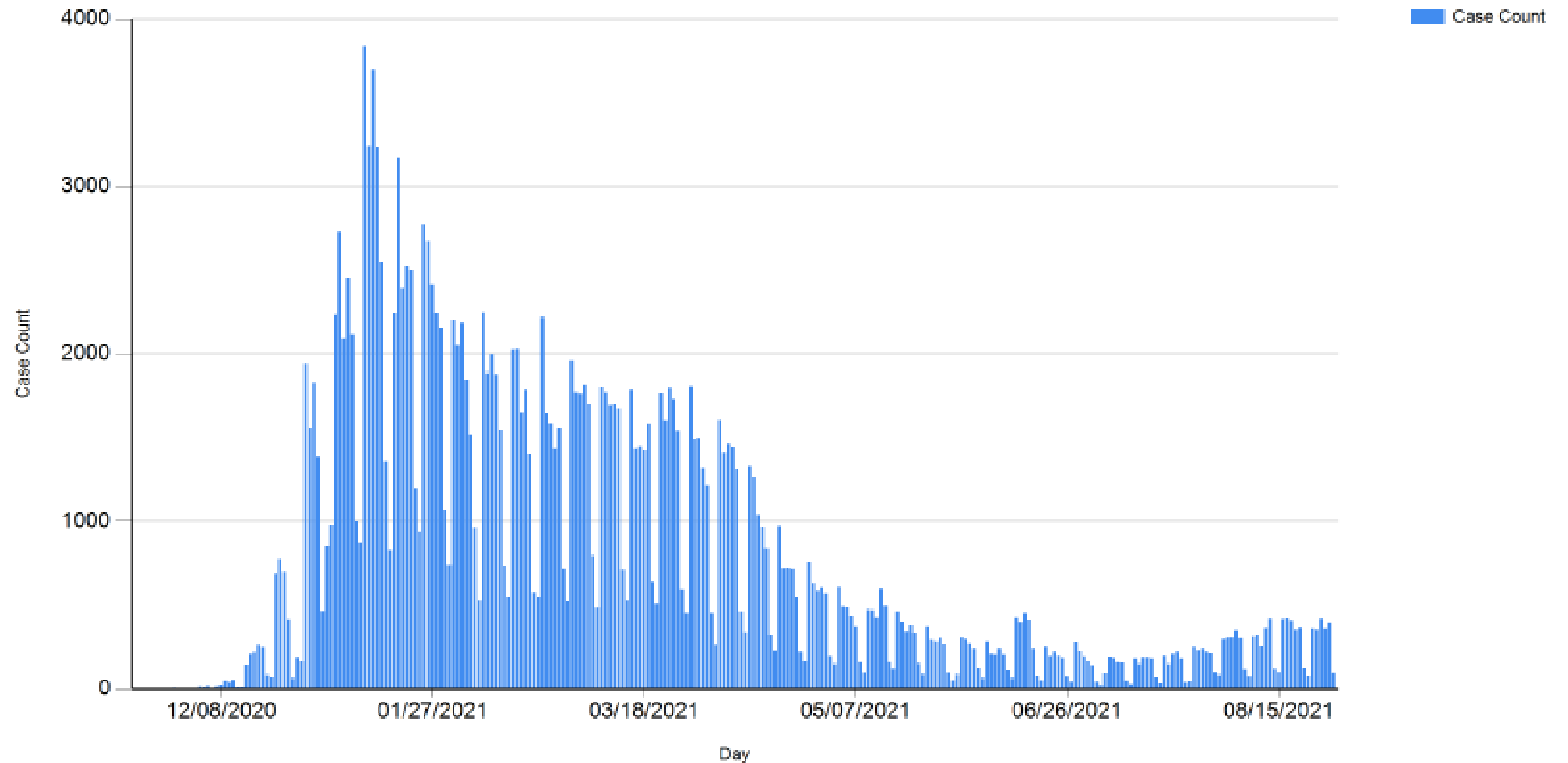
Pandemic Trends: Public Information



NPDS Bulletin

Poison Center Role: Vaccine

All COVID-19 Vaccine cases from 11/12/2020 thru 08/28/2021



Poison Center Role: Vaccine

Information

- Fact-based vaccine information and preventative safety messaging and education

Coding

- Case coding: Clinical effects, vaccine product identification, and adverse events

Reporting

- Vaccine safety reporting to NPDS, VAERS and manufacturers

Poison Center Role: Alternative Education

- Many poison centers offered rotations for residents and students who were removed from clinical settings.
- National groups collaborate on virtual weekly COVID-19 education series.
- Individual poison centers switched public education Programs from live to virtual.

The Value of Poison Centers During the Pandemic Response and Beyond

Response

24/7/365
Medical
Experts

Information Sharing

Rapid
Distribution
to the
Public

Education

Timely
and
Credible

Surveillance

Data
Capture
and
Analysis



Thank you & Special Acknowledgements

The 55 US Poison Centers
Managing and Medical Directors
Specialists in Poison Information
Poison Information Providers
Educators

American Association of Poison Control Center
The Entire Central Office Team

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