

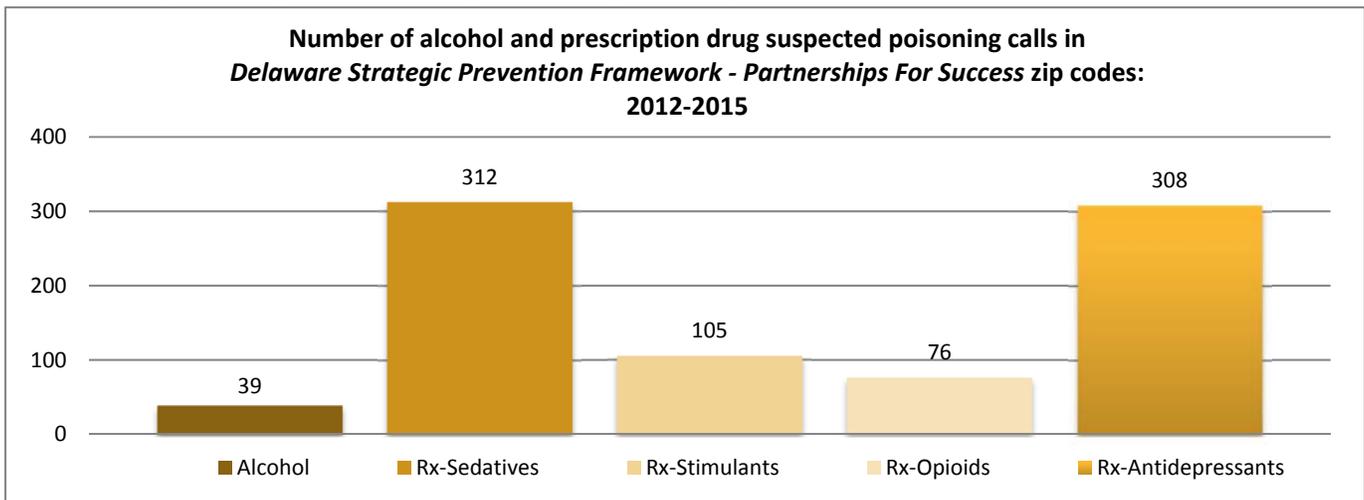


## Number of alcohol and prescription drug poisoning calls in Delaware: 2012-2015

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)<sup>1</sup> supports the nation’s 55 active poison control centers and collects data on potentially dangerous exposures to many substances, including alcohol, prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and marijuana. An exposure call is counted when a caller seeks information regarding treatment for an actual or suspected poison exposure. The AAPCC maintains these data within the National Poison Data System (NPDS)<sup>2</sup>, an excellent source for monitoring exposures nationally, and to observe trends in calls regarding particular substances over time.

The chart below illustrates the number of exposure calls from 2012 through 2015 occurring in the Delaware zip codes targeted by the *Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success initiative (SPF-PFS)*. The SPF-PFS grant is designed to address two of the nation’s top substance abuse prevention priorities: 1) underage drinking among persons aged 12-20; and 2) prescription drug misuse and abuse among persons aged 12 to 25. SPF-PFS prevention efforts cover the majority of the State and has a presence in all three counties. Suspected poisonings related to alcohol use were reported for ages 12-20, and suspected poisonings related to prescription drugs (e.g., sedatives, opioids, stimulants, and antidepressants) for ages 12-25. In some cases, a single exposure involved more than one substance (for example, alcohol and a sedative); these cases were counted in both categories of exposure. Exposures to prescription sedatives (n=312) was most commonly reported, followed closely by exposures to anti-depressants (n=308).

It is important to note that NPDS data may vastly underestimate the number of actual exposures, as calls to poison control centers are voluntary, and experts believe that many people turn to the internet for information regarding exposures they may not view as potentially life-threatening, even though this may not be the case.



<sup>1</sup> AAPCC Website: <http://www.aapcc.org/>

<sup>2</sup> NPDS Annual Reports: <http://www.aapcc.org/annual-reports/>

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