



OUT OF REACH DELAWARE

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

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Safeguarding the welfare of Delaware’s children through educational advocacy, system reform, public awareness, training, and legal representation for children.

ABOUT THE OCA

Policy and Training

Provides intensive reviews of serious child abuse cases, manages youth and transition programs, coordinates child welfare trainings, generates child welfare data and staffs the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC).

Office of the Investigation Coordinator

Monitors over 1200 serious child abuse cases and leads the multidisciplinary team case reviews.

Legal

Represents approximately 550 children that are experiencing foster care through appointment of Child Attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocates with support from Program Coordinators.

Administration

Administrative support is provided to all divisions through leadership, managers, and support staff.



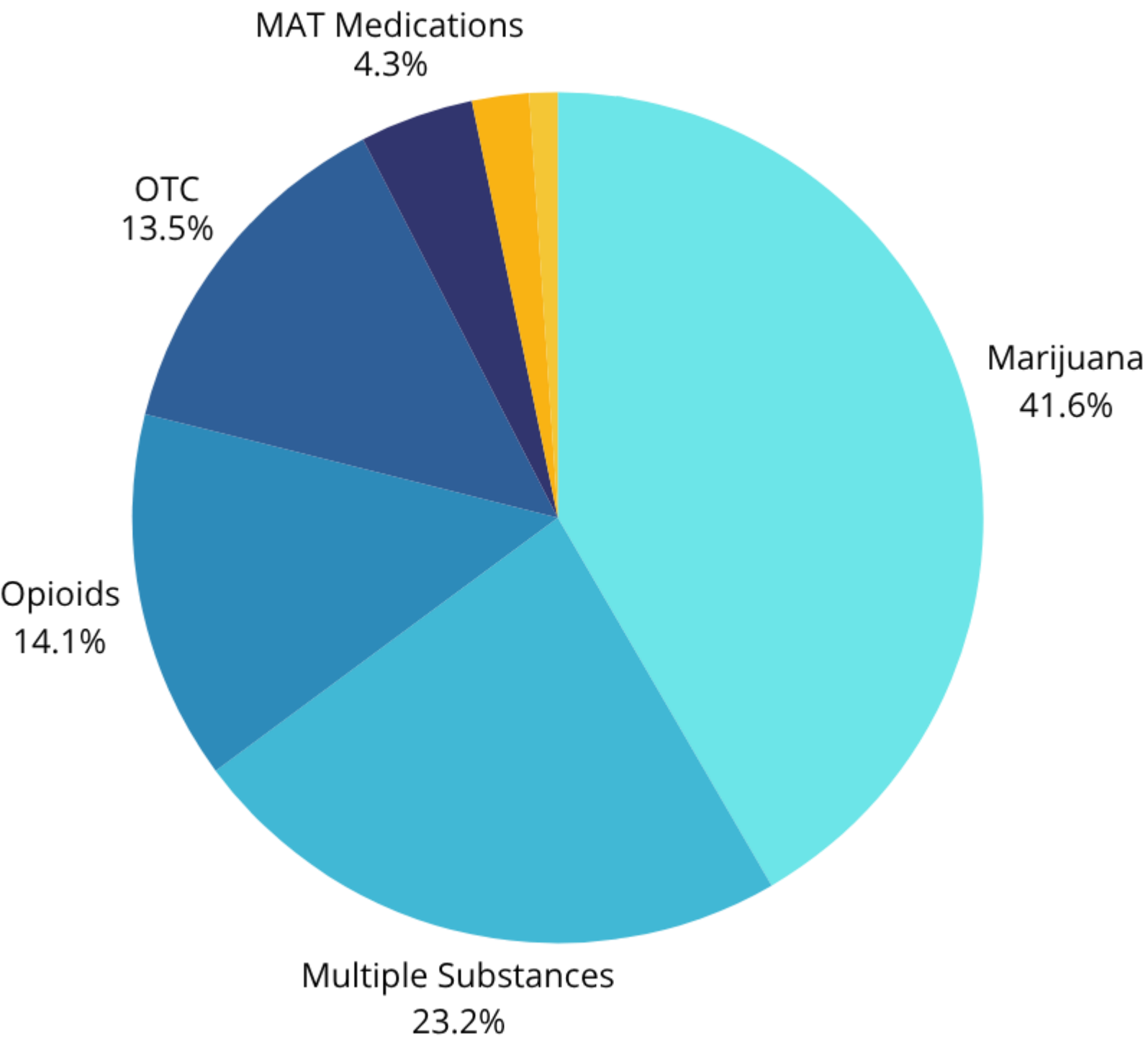
The Problem

Children can be exposed to substances intentionally or through the reckless actions of a parent/caregiver.

261% Increase in reported cases of drug ingestions since the year 2020.

Pediatric drug exposures often result in serious physical injury and/or death.

The Breakdown



*Data from the Office of the Investigation Coordinator January 2021- December 2023

203

Pediatric Drug
Exposures
and Ingestions

Marijuana

&

Fentanyl

3.3 Years

Average Age of a
Child at the Time of
the Ingestion

Out Of Reach Delaware


Campaign focused on critical importance of child safety in relation to safe storage of prescription and recreational drugs

Created in collaboration with Drug Ingestion Workgroup and funded by Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission

Two prong approach to prevention -

- Educational Resources
- Intervention Tools





Home


About

Resources

Partners

Safe Drug Storage Keeps Kids Safe

Safe storage for prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and recreational drugs can save a child's life. Young children are curious and will put all sorts of things in their mouths, especially if it looks like gummies and candies. If it is not safe for a child, it should be **stored in a locked container, up out of their reach, and out of sight.**



227

Reported Cases of Child Drug Ingestion in Delaware Since 2020

3.3

Is the Average Age of the Youth at the Time of the Ingestion


261%

Increase In Reported Cases of Drug Ingestions since 2020

TIP 1

Put it Up, Not Down

Coming home from work or from running errands, we may drop our stuff on the floor, a chair, or coffee table to put away later. Without realizing, children can quickly access things that could hurt them before you know it's happened. **How can you keep kids safe and prevent drug ingestions from occurring? Break the habit and start a new one. Start getting in the habit of coming home and putting your purse, groceries, gym bags, anything with medications or drugs up on a counter.** Then, when you're unpacking, follow tip #2 for safe storage.



Go BLUE

Safe Drug Storage
KEEPS KIDS
SAFE

B

Behind closed cabinets

L

Locked Away

U

Up and Out of Reach and Sight

E

Educate Others

What Have We Done?

Awareness

Awareness campaign includes

- Statewide Billboards
- Shopping Mall Advertisements
- Social Media Campaign
- Launch of Website

OutOfReachDe.com



1.1M+
Social Media
Impressions

Intervention

Partnering with MAT programs to distribute medication lock boxes

315+
Lockboxes
distributed

With Resources

180+
Homes with
Children

Looking Ahead

Build Partnerships

- Distribute more lockboxes to community partners.

Provide Education

- Create educational training to be provided free on our website.

Keep Kids Safe & Drugs Out of Reach



Out of Reach

DELAWARE

**Out of Reach
Delaware**

THANK YOU

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