



Kratom in Context

North Dakota Poison Center Data, 2021–2025

Via ND Health & Human Services

36

kratom calls in
North Dakota, 2021–2025

1,601

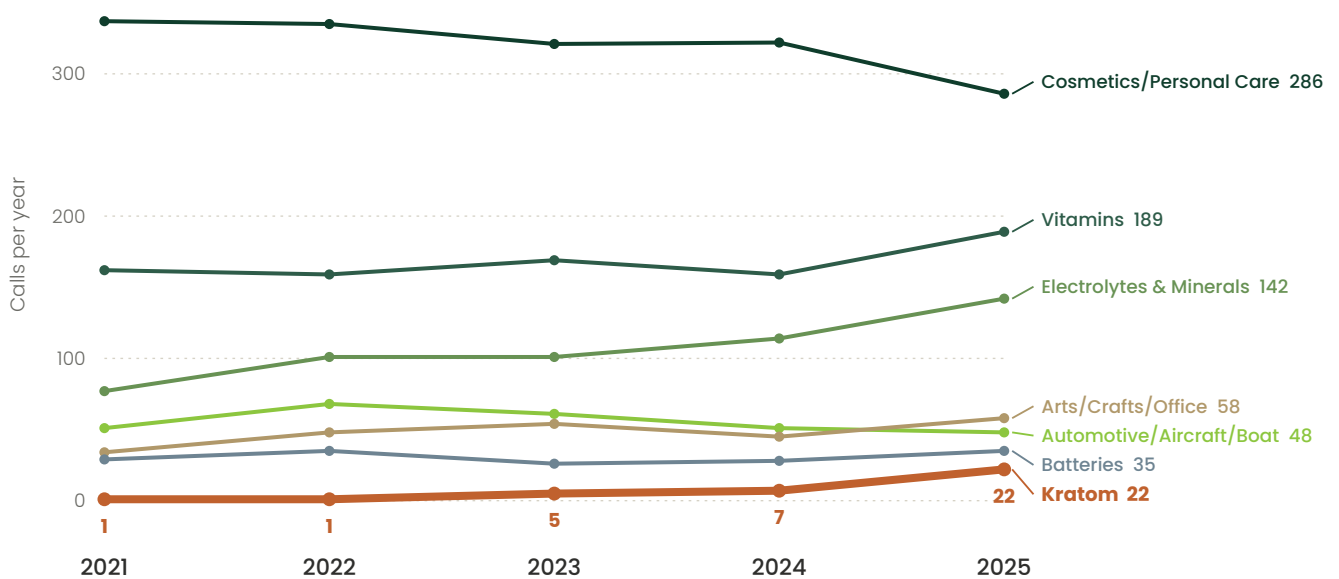
cosmetics and personal care
calls, same period

44x

fewer calls than cosmetics
and personal care products

Poison-center call volume is one of the few consistently collected measures of reported acute exposures and requests for assistance across product categories. A call does not necessarily establish poisoning, causation, or severity. Across 2021–2025 the Regional Poison Center logged 36 North Dakota calls involving kratom. The charts below set that figure against everyday consumer products, against the state's highest-volume exposure categories, and against the national series.

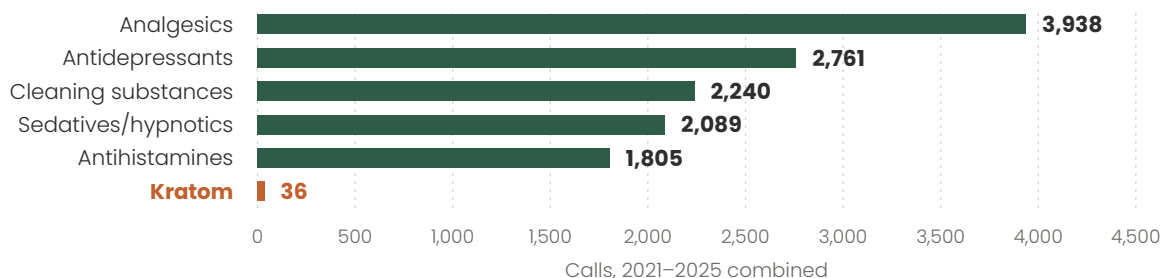
Year by Year: Kratom vs. Everyday Products



North Dakota poison center calls by year, 2021–2025. Source: Minnesota Regional Poison Center via ND HHS Poison Control Dashboard, retrieved 4 August 2026.

Kratom's entire five-year total of 36 calls is smaller than the single-year figure for cosmetics, vitamins, electrolytes and automotive products in every year of the series. Across the full period cosmetics and personal care products generated 1,601 calls — roughly forty-four times as many. The national series tells a different story, examined overleaf: a stable baseline that broke in 2025, when concentrated synthetic 7-OH — not natural kratom leaf — reached retail scale.

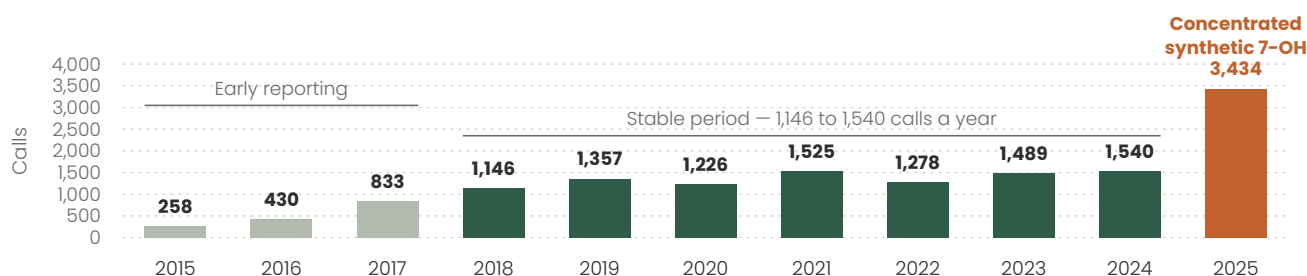
Leading Exposure Categories vs. 'Kratom'



North Dakota poison center calls, 2021–2025 combined. Source as above.

The state's five leading exposure categories generated 12,833 calls between them over the same window. Kratom represents roughly three-tenths of one percent of that combined volume.

The National Picture: What Changed in 2025



Kratom-related calls to U.S. poison centers, 2015–2025. Source: Towers EB, Thomas YT, Holstege CP, Farah R, MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2026;75(11):139–145.

A stable series broke in a single year. From 2018 through 2024 the national figure moved within a narrow band of 1,146 to 1,540 calls a year. In 2025 it reached 3,434 — more than double the highest prior year. North Dakota shows the same break on a smaller scale: one to seven calls a year through 2024, then 22 in 2025. What entered the market that year was concentrated synthetic 7-OH.

CONCENTRATED SYNTHETIC 7-OH IS NOT KRATOM

U.S. Food and Drug Administration.¹ Announcing its July 2025 scheduling recommendation, FDA said it is **“not focused on natural kratom leaf products.”** When temporary scheduling began in July 2026, FDA and DEA stated the action is **“not intended to apply to natural kratom leaf.”**

University of Florida & Johns Hopkins researchers (June 2024).² Natural 7-OH is found in minuscule amounts as an oxidative byproduct of drying kratom leaves. Products with high concentrations of 7-OH are semi-synthetic drugs masquerading as natural kratom, and calling such products kratom is not scientifically credible.

CDC, MMWR (March 2026).³ The report's authors write that as FDA moves to regulate 7-OH but not whole-leaf kratom products, **“surveillance should distinguish product types to assess risks”** — an implicit acknowledgment that recording both under one label distorts the data.

Sources. ¹ FDA/HHS news release, 29 July 2025; FDA, “Hiding in Plain Sight: 7-OH Products,” updated 13 July 2026. ² Public statement of 11 June 2024 by researchers at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. ³ MMWR citation as above. **Limitations.** ND Health & Human Services Poison Control Dashboard, Minnesota Regional Poison Center data, retrieved 4 August 2026; call volume is not a severity measure.