

# FACT SHEET: PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT

Unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs can pose a substantial risk to your community by providing the opportunity for misuse, abuse and diversion.

Hosting Prescription Drug Take-Back events offers an easy way for law enforcement agencies and communities to address this growing threat.



## HOW TO ORGANIZE AN Rx DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

### Determine when your Take-Back Day event will take place

For maximum exposure, consider hosting two Take-Back Days, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

- Allow for time to organize and promote your Take-Back Day event.
- Determine hours of operation (the required law enforcement presence will help determine the date, time and duration of your Take-Back Day event).

### Decide on location(s)

- Local need will help determine best locations. Consider: senior/community centers, community areas at local law enforcement agencies or fire stations, retail centers.
- Check whether a drive-through or drop-off option is possible so people do not have to get out of their vehicles.
- If holding the event in a retail parking area, be considerate of the retailers when considering placement and traffic flow (be sure to receive permission from the property manager).

Note: Collection bins need to be supplied for event.

### Determine what medications will be collected

- Typical acceptable items include:
  - Expired or unwanted prescription medications
  - Over the counter medications
  - Vitamins and nutritional supplements
  - Veterinary medications
  - Homeopathic remedies
  - EpiPens
- Items not typically accepted:
  - Needles/sharps (excluding EpiPens)
  - Thermometers
  - Syrups or liquids
  - IV bags
  - Bloody or infectious waste
  - Personal care products
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - Aerosol cans

### Who will be part of the collection team?

- Contact local law enforcement agency for Take-Back day requirements. Federal statues require a law enforcement officer must supervise the process and be present.
- Volunteers: Depending on the number of locations, date, time and duration, volunteers may be utilized to help facilitate traffic, answer questions and greet people.\*

Potential sources for volunteers:

- Coalition members
- High school & college students
- Local government
- Parent organizations
- Local clinics or pharmacies
- Drug prevention organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Retail businesses

\*Be sure to educate volunteers on federal and state regulations. Make sure they do not personally accept the medications and are informed that the law enforcement officials should handle the returns. Don't forget to thank volunteers and recruit them for the next Take-Back Day event.

### Collection Records - determine how you will manage recording information

- Recording of medicines and other items collected is recommended.
- Most common reporting methods is to quantify pounds collected (You can receive this total from your law enforcement partner).

### Ensuring Privacy

Maintaining consumer privacy ensures the credibility of your take-back program. Ask people turning in their medications to:

- Black out\* contact information on the medicine bottles.
- Place medications in a bag or container at collection site and take the empty bottles home.

\* Be sure to have black-out markers on hand at your event.

### Promoting your Take-Back Day

Determine how you will promote the event for maximum exposure & success.

- Use the media materials in your Rx Drug Misuse and Abuse toolkit:
  - Press Release
  - Take-Back Day Banner
  - Take-Back Day Brochure
  - Take-Back Day Poster
- Who will partner with you and help get the word out?
  - Local law enforcement
  - Pharmacies
  - Retailers
- Local media (provide the media with Who, What, When, Where and How about your event)

### After your Take-Back Day event

- Be sure to thank all participants
- Provide media with a follow-up fact sheet with Who, What, When, Where and How many pounds were collected
- [www.dumpthedrugsaz.org](http://www.dumpthedrugsaz.org)