

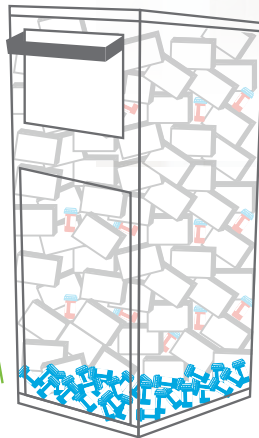
# DisposeRx<sup>®</sup>

Solving the problem of drug disposal

## Are Drug Take-Back Events and Kiosks Effective? Not as much as you may think.

5%

Drugs collected at three DEA take-back events in one study showed that only **5% of the drugs returned were opioids and other controlled substances.**<sup>1</sup>



95%

The remaining 95% is made up of **vitamins, creams and over-the counter medications.**

At three DEA take-back events in the study, which occurred in 2013 and 2014, 21,500 units of controlled medicines were collected which is less than 1/2% of the prescriptions issued.<sup>1</sup>

## Data for take-back and collection sites measure their success in pounds collected but pounds do not equal pills.

*Although the tons of drugs removed from circulation is certainly impressive, the majority of the weight reported is comprised of containers, children's vitamins, creams, cough syrup and not the drugs themselves.*<sup>2</sup>



Drug take-back events face barriers that may prevent communities from hosting these events. The Controlled Substances Act requires the participation of law enforcement in drug take-back events to prevent possible diversion. In addition, pharmacists or pharmacy technicians are needed to identify and verify substances and other drugs of concern.



Cost is another major barrier that potentially limits whether community based groups can maintain these efforts. It costs \$1.25/pound to incinerate unwanted drugs.



For Operation Medicine Drop events, reported here, only EPA-approved incinerators for biohazardous materials were allowed to be used. North Carolina only has one EPA approved incinerator.



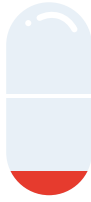
Community and state programs engaging in drug take-back efforts must consider the costs associated with maintaining this kind of operation and providing the necessary oversight and approvals.

**3**  
**YEARS**

There is great opportunity for diversion, addiction, overdoses and accident poisoning with collection sites and take-backs. This same study showed that **“the median time from dispensing to disposal was 36 months.”**


<sup>1</sup> (UNC TV Science. Are drug take-back events effectively reclaiming controlled drugs, February 9, 2017)\*

<sup>2</sup> (NC medical Journal Vol 77, No. 1, North Carolina's Operation Medicine Drop: Results from One of the Nation's Largest Drug Disposal Programs)



12.1%

Another study indicated that only **12.1% of respondents with leftover opioid medication turned it in to a pharmacy or take-back program.**<sup>3</sup>



70%

**Over 70%** of respondents **have not used take-back events** or taking unused medication to a facility for disposal.<sup>4</sup>



Every Day

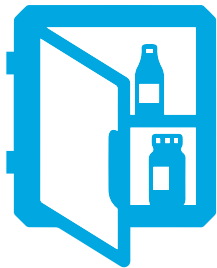
650K  
opioid  
prescriptions  
are filled

4K+  
people begin  
abusing  
opioids

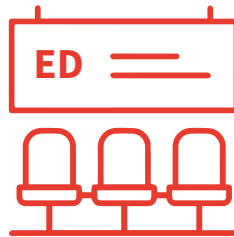
190  
people die  
from drug  
overdoses

89%

*of consumers are looking for a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted medications.*<sup>5</sup>



70%  
of drug addiction **begins at the medicine cabinet.**<sup>6</sup>



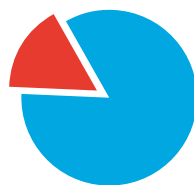
Misuse of prescription medication is the **# 1 Emergency Department admission.**



174  
**Americans die** from drug overdoses each day.

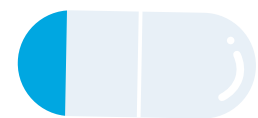
66,817

**people died** from drug overdose for the 12 months ending June 2017.<sup>7</sup>



16.3%

**increase in overdose deaths** between June 2017 and June 2018.<sup>8</sup>



21%  
**increase in drug overdose deaths** between 2015 and 2016.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>3</sup> JAMA Internal Medicine, Medication Sharing, Storage, and Disposal Practices for Opioid Medications Among US Adults, July 2016, Volume 176, Number 7 pp. 1027-1029

<sup>4</sup> Public Opinion of Prescription Drug Abuse and Disposal, April 2017, Table 5

<sup>5</sup> Journal of Drug Abuse

<sup>6</sup> NIDA

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCHS Data Brief No. 294, December 2017 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db294.pdf>;

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Vital Statistics System; Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts, January 8, 2018 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>;

<sup>9</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Vital Statistics System; Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts, January 8, 2018 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>;

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