

Got Drugs?

October 29, 2011
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

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This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

In an effort to address this problem, DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted National Prescription Drug Take Back Days on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and again on April 25, 2011. The purpose of these National Take Back Days was to provide a venue for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. These efforts were a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. There were nearly 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that participated in the events. All told, the American Public turned in more than 309 tons of pills during the combined events.

Four days after last fall's Take-Back Day, Congress passed legislation amending the Controlled Substances Act to allow the DEA to develop a process for people to safely dispose of their prescription drugs. DEA immediately began developing this process after President Obama signed the Safe and Secure Drug Disposal Act of 2010 on October 12.

"The amount of prescription drugs turned in by the American public during the first two Take-Back events is simply staggering—309 tons—and represents a clear need for a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart. "DEA is hard at work establishing a drug disposal process and will continue to offer take-back opportunities until the proper regulations are in place.

DEA has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will take place on **Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them.

The DEA, the City of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Springs Police Department work in cooperation to bring this service to our local residents. Participation in this program will be announced locally as the National Take Back Initiative day draws near.