

U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Timothy J. Plancon
Special Agent in Charge
Detroit Field Division
www.dea.gov



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News Release

DEA’S NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY IS SATURDAY

Twice-annual event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30

Detroit, MI – After collecting and destroying 5.5 million pounds—2,762 tons—of unused prescription drugs in the past 5 years, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is continuing its efforts to take back unused, unwanted and expired prescription medications. The DEA invites the public to bring their potentially dangerous, unwanted medicines to one of over 5,000 collection sites around the country, including over 440 sites in the Detroit Field Division, that are manned by more than 3,800 of DEA’s tribal and local law enforcement partners. This service is free of charge, with no questions asked.

The public can find a nearby collection site by visiting www.dea.gov, clicking on the “Got Drugs?” icon, and entering their zip code into the search window, or they can call 800-882-9539. Only pills and other solids, like patches, will be accepted—the public should not bring liquids, needles or other sharps to take back sites.

America is presently experiencing an epidemic of addiction, overdose and death due to abuse of prescription drugs, particularly opioid painkillers. 6.5 million Americans abuse prescription drugs, according to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than abuse cocaine, heroin, and hallucinogens combined.

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Barbara McQuade said, “Prescription pill addiction has exploded in Michigan, and has led to a resurgence in heroin use and overdose deaths,” McQuade said. “We appreciate DEA’s effort to remove this poison from homes so that it does not end up in the wrong hands.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. Plancon said, “Most prescription drug abusers get their pills from their own family, or from their friends. Please take the proactive step to reduce substance abuse in the United States by removing unwanted prescription drugs from your home.”

Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, eclipsing deaths from motor vehicle crashes or firearms. The removal from homes of unwanted prescription pills that can be abused, stolen or resold is an easy way to help fight the epidemic of substance abuse and addiction.

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