



For Immediate Release
Contact: Mary Elizabeth Robertson

Drug Take-Back Day Provides Safe Way to Dispose of Prescriptions

SANTA FE, N.M. — Expired and unused prescription drugs can be dropped off for disposal on April 28th as part of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA), Drug Take Back Day. New Mexico’s Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD), a division of the Human Services Department, is partnering on this drug take back initiative, while ensuring drug disposal receptacles are available throughout New Mexico each day of the year.

BHSD has 29 locations open across New Mexico for expired and unused medications to be taken and disposed of anonymously and without question. New Mexicans are also able to return unused medications back to pharmacies, hospitals and other designated areas any time of year.

“As we continue to build on our efforts to fight prescription drug abuse and overdose fatalities, this is an opportunity for all New Mexicans to join us in this fight to save lives,” Governor Susana Martinez said. “I encourage all New Mexicans to participate in this free service to get rid of any unused, unwanted or expired medication in the home.”

This is the 14th Drug Take Back Day and is part of a national effort to remove opioids and other medicines from homes so they will not be abused or stolen.

“Medicines no longer being used may pose grave and unnecessary dangers to families and the people visiting their homes. Drug take back programs run by New Mexico’s local communities are a big step toward preventing unnecessary deaths due to the possibility of accidental medication exposure or diversion for illicit use,” said Human Services Department Secretary Brent Earnest.

Last fall, the DEA collected 456 tons of potentially dangerous prescription medications across the country. In New Mexico, the DEA collected 11,688 pounds of medications.

In 2016, the [Governor signed legislation](#) designed to reduce drug seeking and to expand access to Naloxone (a medication that can help reverse overdoses from opioids). In 2014, New Mexico became the first state nationwide to provide pharmacists with prescriptive authority for Naloxone. The Martinez Administration has also expanded outpatient treatment programs, removed prior authorization for Suboxone under Medicaid, and is expanding the number of Methadone clinics and the number of these that accept Medicaid.

There are also a variety of education efforts such as the “No Exceptions” drug awareness program, participation in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, prevention efforts such as the PMP, and policy initiatives such as coverage of naloxone through Centennial Care.

Just a few months ago the New Mexico Department of Health announced the state’s overdose death rate improved from 8th highest in the nation in 2015 to 12th highest in 2016. This is the second year that New Mexico’s ranking has improved substantially according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is the first time New Mexico has not ranked among the top 10 states in drug overdose death rate since the CDC started reporting drug overdose death data in 1999.

While this is important progress in combating drug abuse and overdose fatalities in New Mexico, there’s still a lot of work to be done, which is why the Governor and her Administration will continue doing everything they can to end this epidemic.

“While we’re seeing important progress in combating drug abuse and overdose fatalities in New Mexico, there’s still a lot of work to be done, which is why the Governor and her Administration will continue doing everything we can to end this epidemic,” Department of Health Secretary Lynn Gallagher said.

Take Back Day will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2 p.m. For a full list of Drug Take Back Day locations, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

To learn about other daily available drug take back receptacles in NM, visit: <https://www.doseofrealitynm.com/safe-medication-use/>.

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DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx} TAKEBACK



If you don't properly dispose of the unused or expired prescription drugs in your home, they might find a new one.

Visit [DEATakeBack.com](https://www.deatakeback.com) for a collection site near you.



Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.

Pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision.

The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.

The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends—and the home medicine cabinet.

Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

Take-back programs are the best way to dispose of old drugs. But if a program is not available:

- Take the meds out of their bottles;
- Mix them with something unappealing like used kitty litter or coffee grounds;
- Seal them in a bag or disposable container, and throw that away.

For more information on prescription drug abuse, go to:

- www.DEA.gov
- www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com
- www.OnlyThinkTwice.com

DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx} TAKEBACK



Campaña nacional de recolección de medicamentos recetados

La mayor parte de los medicamentos recetados que se usan de forma indebida provienen de familiares y amigos. Usted podría ser un narcotraficante, sin siquiera saberlo.

Visite [DEATakeBack.com](https://www.deatakeback.com) y encuentre el sitio de recolección más cercano.



Campaña nacional de recolección de medicamentos recetados

Los medicamentos recetados sin usar o vencidos constituyen un problema de seguridad pública porque conllevan a su uso indiscriminado, envenenamiento accidental o sobredosis.

Los medicamentos farmacéuticos pueden ser tan peligrosos como las drogas de la calle si se toman sin prescripción o sin la supervisión de un médico.

El uso no terapéutico de medicamentos recetados es la segunda forma más común de drogadicción, superado únicamente por la marihuana, en Estados Unidos.

La mayoría de los adolescentes que abusan de los medicamentos recetados los obtienen de familiares y amigos-y del botiquín de sus casas.

Los medicamentos recetados sin usar que se botan a la basura pueden ser recolectados y usados indiscriminadamente o vendidos ilegalmente.

Los medicamentos sin usar que se botan por las tuberías contaminan los acueductos. Desechar adecuadamente estos medicamentos salva vidas y protege el medioambiente.

Los programas de recolección son la mejor manera de desechar estos medicamentos viejos. Sin embargo, si no se cuenta con un programa de recolección, se recomienda:

- Vaciar los medicamentos de sus empaques;
- Mezclarlos con una sustancia no agradable; por ejemplo, arena para gatos o residuos de café molido;
- Sellarlos en una bolsa o envase desechable y arrojarlos a la basura.

Para obtener más información sobre el abuso de medicamentos recetados, visite:

- www.DEA.gov
- www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com
- www.JustThinkTwice.com