

Prescription Drug Take-Back Program is Back for Round 2

On Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., New Hampshire State Police and local law enforcement agencies will join efforts with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from medicine cabinets. This is an opportunity to safely empty out your medicine cabinet of drugs you don't need anymore or have expired, including prescription drugs that contain controlled substances.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

“Prescription drug abuse is a rising threat for our local students, with more than 20 percent reporting to have used prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription” states Melissa Silvey, coordinator of ONE Voice for Southeastern New Hampshire. “A factor contributing to their increased usage is their availability in the home medicine cabinet. We applaud the DEA and local safety officials for their efforts to rid medicine cabinets of expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances. They are a risk to public health and safety.”

Local collections sites include:

- Dover Police Department, 46 Locust St., Dover.
- Lee Police Department, 20 George Bennet Road, Lee.
- Rochester Police Department, 23 Wakefield St., Rochester.
- Durham Police Department, 86 Dover Road, Durham.
- Farmington Police Department, 531 Main Street, Farmington.