



NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Take-Back Day Nets More Than 200 Pounds of Medications

SPRINGFIELD, OH (May 6, 2019) — More than 200 lbs. of medications were collected during Springfield's Drug Take-Back Day April 27.

Officials collected 251 lbs. of prescription medications during the effort last Saturday, said Sgt. Tom Selner, Springfield Police Division Community Response Team.

The division was on hand to collect outdated and unused medications for safe disposal, no questions asked. The Springfield Police Division and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored the effort. It was the 17th time in nine years that the initiative to prevent pill abuse and theft was carried out.

"Drug Take-Back Day is a safe way to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted medications," said Selner. "Medications should never be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Medications collected during Drug Take-Back Day are properly destroyed."

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11 million pounds—nearly 5,500 tons—of pills.

The initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards