

DID YOU KNOW?

Prescription Drug Abuse is the Fastest-Growing Drug Problem in the U.S.



1 in 7

Colorado High School students has taken prescription medications without a doctor's prescription. Over half of teens say that it's easy to get prescription drugs from their parent's medicine cabinets.

In 2015:

The number of **329** prescription opioid-related deaths

vs.

alcohol-impaired **151** driving fatalities (where BAC was 0.08 or over)*.



Pain Medications Obtained for Nonmedical Use

53.7% of individuals who misused prescription opioids obtained them from a friend or relative. **



**NSDUH numbers: (Table 6.56B Source Where Pain Relievers Were Obtained for Most Recent Misuse among Past Year Misusers Aged 12 or Older, by Age Group: Percentages, 2014 and 2015): <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015.pdf>

DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

Call **303.692.2903** or visit **TakeMedsBack.org** to find permanent household medication take-back sites.

Colorado Medication Take-Back Program

Managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Permanent collection sites can be found at participating law enforcement agencies, pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics.

Accepted medicines:

- Over-the-counter and prescribed medicines (including prescribed controlled substances like Percocet, Oxycontin, Xanax, Ritalin, etc.)
- Medication samples ■ Medicated ointments
- Vitamins ■ Pet medications
- Unused medication patches ■ Liquid medications (small amounts in non-leaking original container)
- Unused injection pens (EpiPens®, blood thinner injectors, insulin pens, etc.).

Other Disposal Options

TakeMedsBack.org also lists permanent collection locations managed by others.

Take-Back Events

One-day events for medication collection may be held in your community from time to time. Check **TakeMedsBack.org** to see the schedule.



Do You Know Who's Taking Your Medicine?

STORE SAFELY - DISPOSE WISELY

Safe drug disposal saves lives and protects drinking water supplies.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By monitoring your meds and disposing of them properly.

SAFE STORAGE & SAFE DISPOSAL TIPS

DO:

Store medications safely out of reach of children and pets. Consider a lock box or similar device to store medications safely.

Visit TakeMedsBack.org to find a safe disposal location near you. New boxes are being added around the state. If there is not yet a safe disposal box nearby, check back soon.



How you dispose of unused and expired medications **does** make a difference.



Consider a safe storage solution:
A medication storage cabinet that locks.

DO NOT:

Don't flush pills or liquid medication down the toilet or drain. Flushing pollutes drinking water and could harm aquatic life.

How you dispose of unused and expired medications makes a difference. Studies have detected medicines in our water supplies.



If you have no other choice,

you can throw most medicines in household trash if you follow these steps:



Remove medicine from containers and destroy labels to help protect privacy. Recycle containers if possible or hide them in the trash.



Mix medicine with something that cannot be eaten, such as cat litter or coffee grounds, to prevent accidental or intentional misuse of medicine by children or animals.



Wrap the mixture in another material, such as newsprint or a paper sack, or place medicine in sealable containers (cans, plastic bags).



Throw in the trash on the day your garbage is collected.

DO Take Extra Care When Disposing of Syringes & Patches

SYRINGES & SHARPS:

- Place syringes and other injectables in a sturdy, puncture-resistant container with a screw-on cap. Empty laundry detergent bottles work well.
- Place a label/warning on the container (Example: *Syringes – Do Not Recycle*).
- When full, place sealed containers in the trash, not recycling.
- Or purchase a plastic sharps container at your pharmacy. Your pharmacy may sell pre-labeled, mail-back containers.

PATCHES:

- Only for used fentanyl or Duragesic pain patches: fold in half, sticky side together, and flush down the toilet. These patches are dangerous if not flushed immediately after use.
- Take all other unopened patches to a Take-Back location.
- Be especially careful using and storing pain medication patches; they are dangerous if used other than prescribed and directed

