

Drug Take-Back Day, April 30, 2011

On April 30, 2011, from 10 am to 2 pm, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will partner with state and local law enforcement agencies to provide an opportunity for the public to turn over **expired, unwanted, or unused** pharmaceuticals and other medications to law enforcement officers for proper disposal.

Improper storage and disposal of unwanted drugs is a major public health and safety issue in the United States. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

Improper disposal of drugs is also a threat to water resources. The once recommended practice of flushing unwanted drugs puts drugs directly into rivers, streams and groundwater. Some 40% of prescription drugs are never used as intended. Proper disposal of unwanted drugs is an important step toward getting water supplies safe.

The first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day took place on Saturday, September 25, 2010. This effort was a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. Approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation (286 in Pennsylvania) participated and turned in over 121 tons of pills during this event.

Details on the April 30 event, including a link to locate a collection site near you, will be posted on the DEA website www.dea.gov or you may call 215-238-5172 (Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware) and 412-777-1879 (Western Pennsylvania). Local law enforcement agencies are asked to [register](#) as collection sites by March 31.

What you can do ...

- Encourage your local police department to [host a collection site](#).
- Partner with your police department to host and publicize the day.
- [Publicize](#) collection sites throughout your area.

