

**Lawrence County
Unwanted Medication Collection Program
November 6, 2010
Data Summary**

On November 6, 2010, Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department administered the county's first medication collection program, which took place at the Jameson Health System, South Campus. The program was a walk-in event held and was held in the facility's conference room. Each individual that showed up was counted as a "participant". As each participant entered the facility, they were asked to complete a survey. A total of 60 surveys were completed. Please realize that the numbers reported will be skewed since participants may have included more than one response to some questions on the survey.

The medications collected were classified as either controlled substance, non-controlled substance (which included over-the-counter medications), or pet medication.

Controlled substances are medications prescribed to treat medical conditions such as pain, anxiety, and attention-deficit disorder. These medications have the potential to cause patient harm if used improperly. Examples of these include: Oxycodone, (i.e. Percocet), Valium, and Ritalin.

Non-controlled substances are prescribed to treat medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and bacterial infections. Examples of these include: Lopressor, Avandamet, and Amoxicillin.

Over-the-counter medications are available at any pharmacy without a prescription. Like prescription drugs, they are safe when used according to package direction or when following a medical professional's recommendations. Examples of these include: sleep aids, antihistamines (e.g. Benadryl and Dramamine), and cough suppressants.

Pet medications are given to pets and farm animals by licensed veterinarians to treat or prevent various animal infections or diseases. Examples of these include: worm medicines (e.g. Interceptor), pain medicines (e.g. Deramaxx), steroids, antibiotics, and vitamins/supplements.

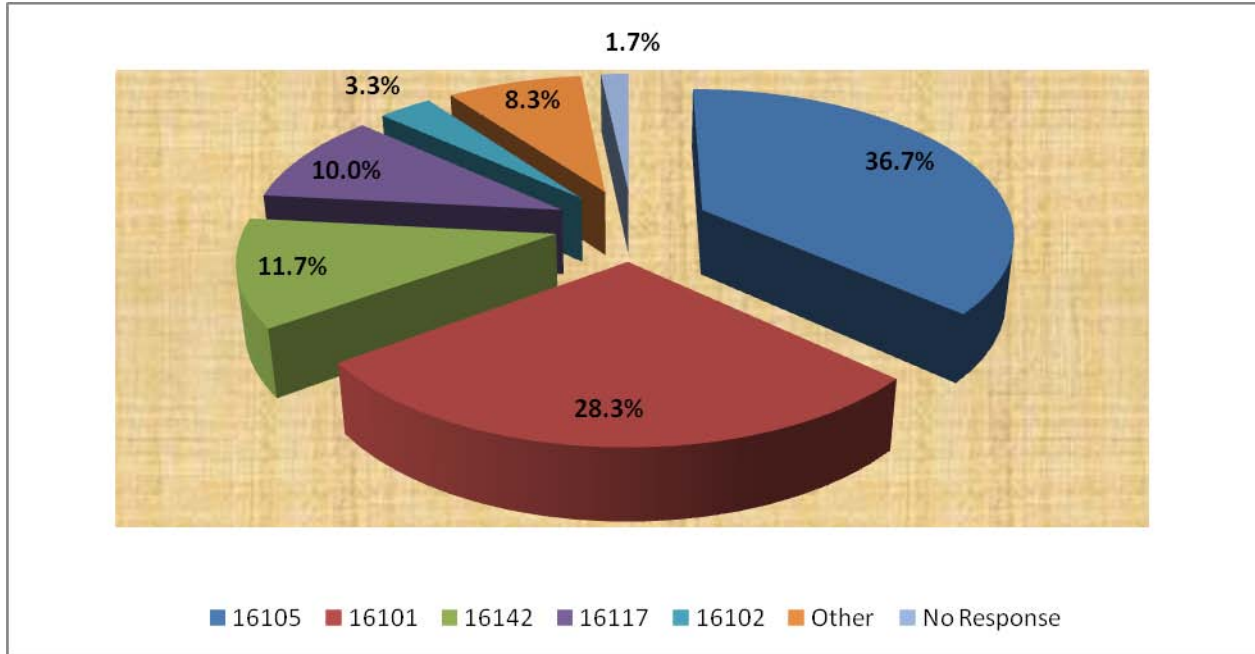
During this collection process, an estimated total of 245 pounds of controlled and non-controlled medications were obtained. The non-controlled medications filled two 55-gallon drums and the controlled medications filled two 5-gallon buckets.

Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department contracted with Environmental Coordination Services & Recycling (ECS&R) who hauled away and properly disposed of the non-controlled substances. The Lawrence County District Attorney and Drug Taskforce took possession of the controlled substances and had them incinerated at a local facility.

The information provided below describes the results of the 60 completed surveys.

ZIP CODE:

The participants originated from all areas of the county, including outside areas. The following chart shows the geographic areas of residence, based on zip code, in which the participants originate. The zip code most reported was 16105, with 16101 running a close second, and 16142 and 16117 closely following.

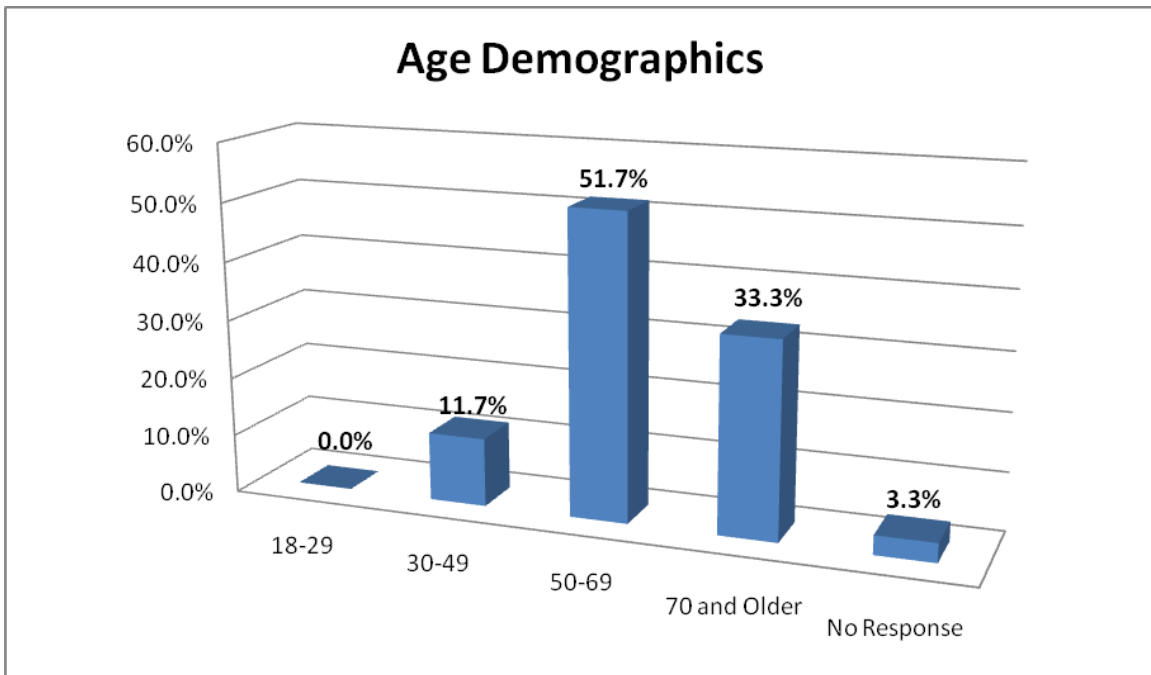


The zip codes within the **Other** category: 16160, 16001, 16143, 16157, 16112

ZIP CODES	
16105	New Castle
16101	New Castle
16142	New Wilmington
16117	Ellwood City
16102	New Castle
16160	West Pittsburgh
16001	Butler
16143	Pulaski
16157	Wampum
16112	Bessemer

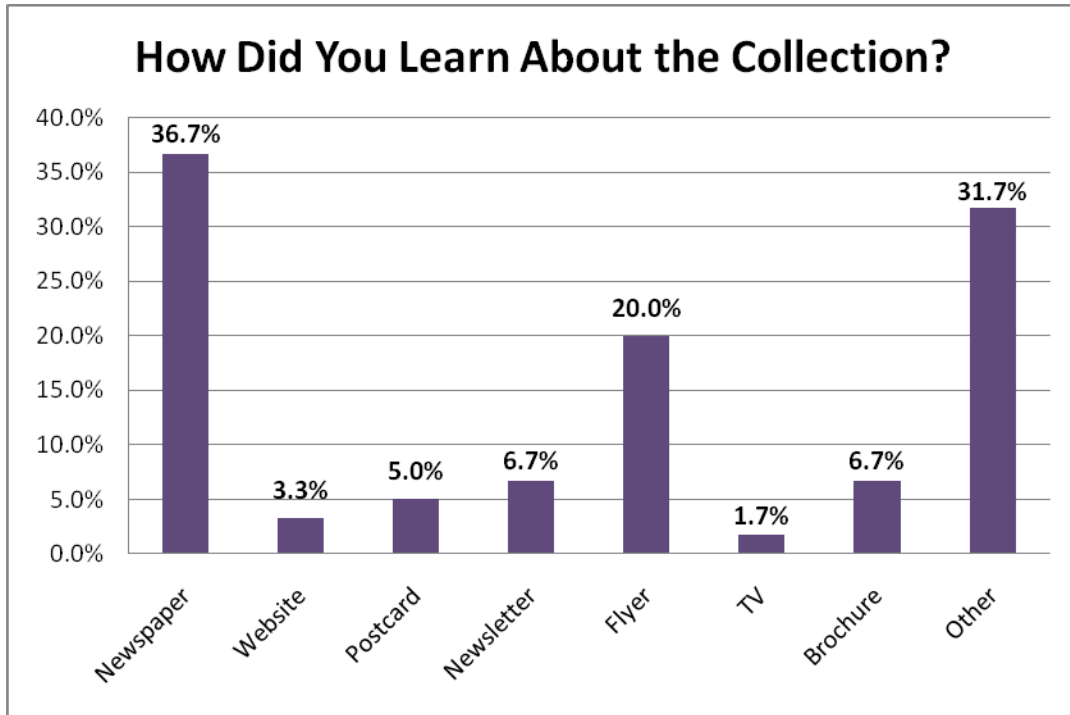
AGE OF PERSON COMPLETING SURVEY:

The chart below depicts which age group was most represented during the event. The age group with the most attendees was 50 – 69 years of age which accounted for 52%. This was closely followed by those 70 years of age and older accounting for 33%. However, no surveys were completed by persons younger than 30 years of age.



HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE COLLECTION:

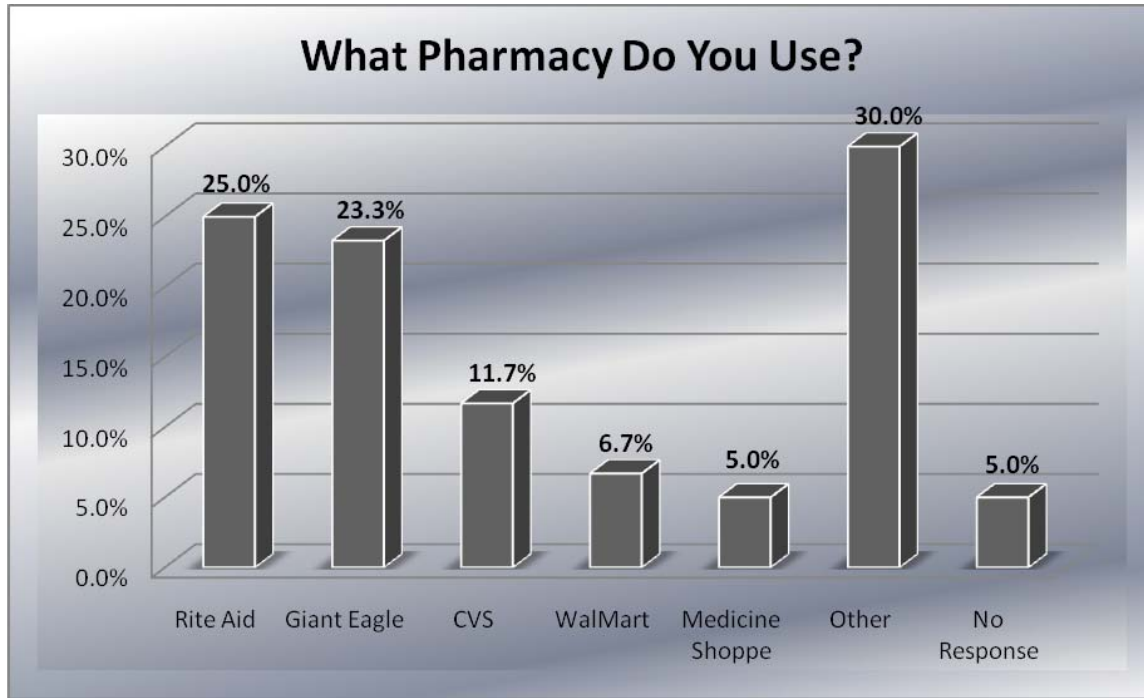
This event was publicized by many methods throughout the county. The methods used include newspaper and radio advertisements; community education; distribution of flyers, postcards, and newsletters; boro and water bills; and other community events. The chart below shows that approximately 37% of the program participants heard about the event through their local newspaper. This is closely followed by 32% of the participants who heard about the event through other means.



NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question
Other category includes: Committee; Boro and Water bills; Radio; Recycling collections; Summer Event in New Castle; Hospice; Work; Family/Friend; Hospital; Wrote Letter to Editor

WHAT PHARMACY DO YOU NORMALLY USE?

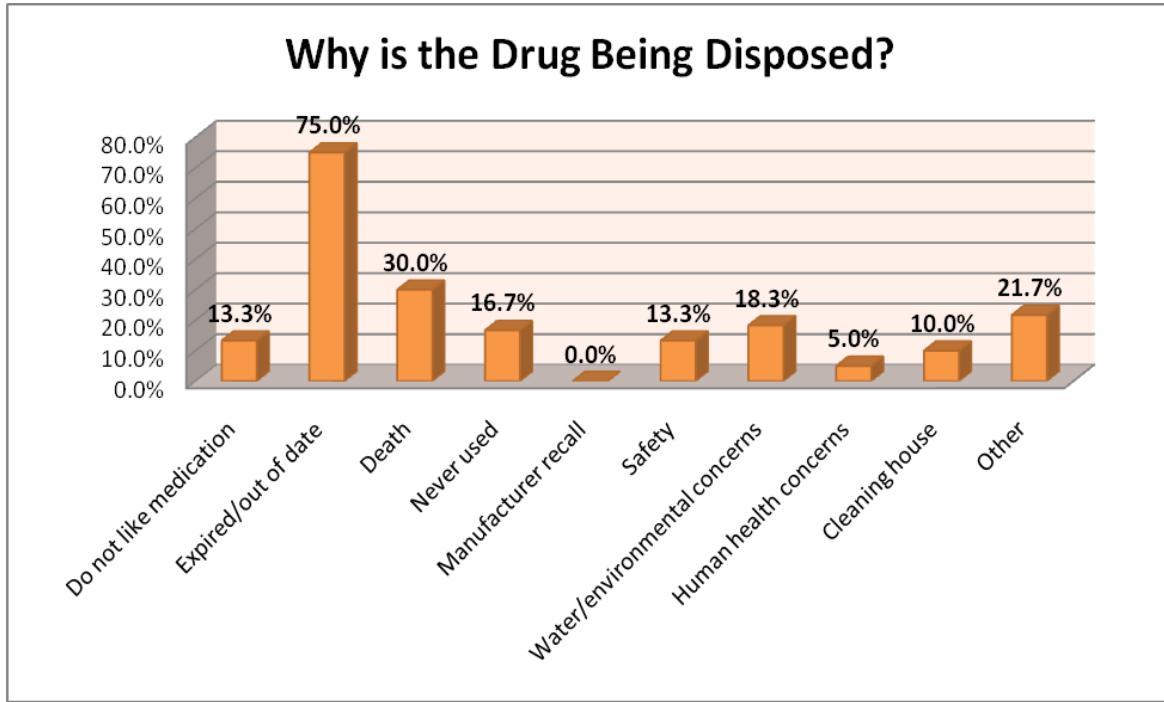
Participants were asked which pharmacy they regularly use. Rite Aid and Giant Eagle pharmacies were the most reported.



NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question
Other category includes: Walgreens; Hyde Drug; Hospital; Lombardo's; Medco; Hometown; Express Scripts; Kmart; East Side; Village Pharmacy

WHY IS THE DRUG BEING DISPOSED?

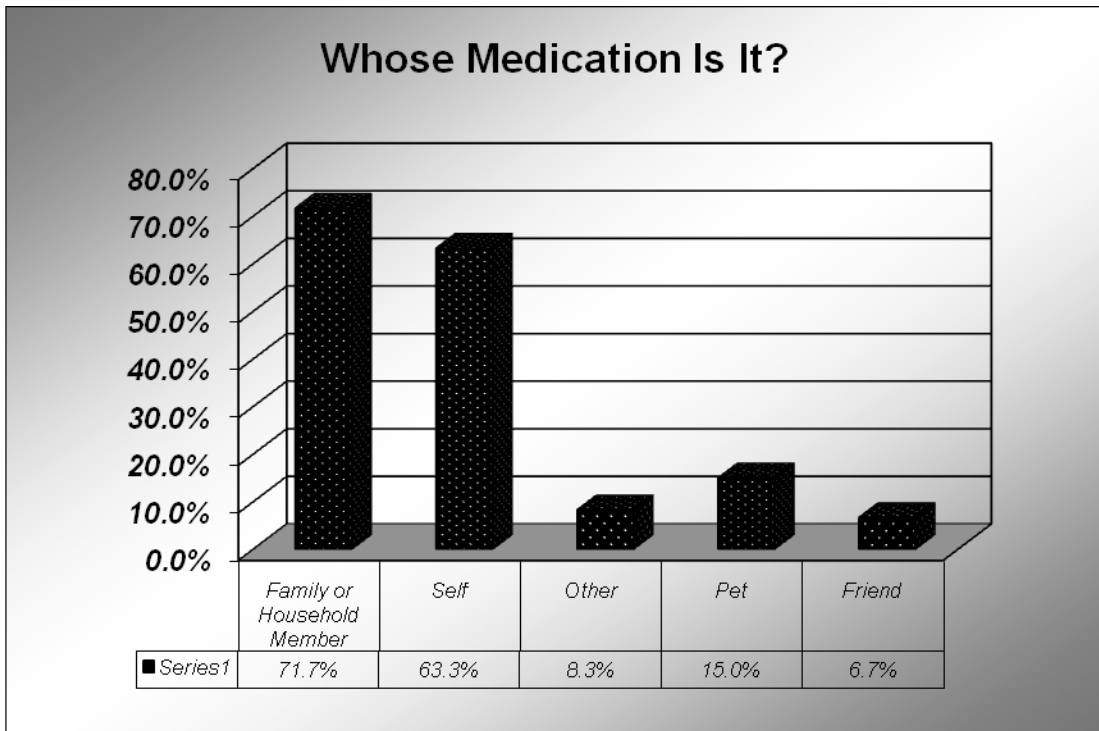
Participants were asked why the drug is being disposed. Seventy-five percent of the participants had medication that was out-of-date, while 30% reported that the medicine was from a deceased family member or friend.



NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question

WHOSE MEDICATION IS IT?

Below is the chart that depicts to whom the medication belonged. Participants reported that they recycled medications that belonged to themselves, family members, friends, and pets. The category with the most response was recycling medication for a family or household member, which accounted for 72%. The “Other” category includes medication being recycled for a neighbor, physician’s office, or patients.

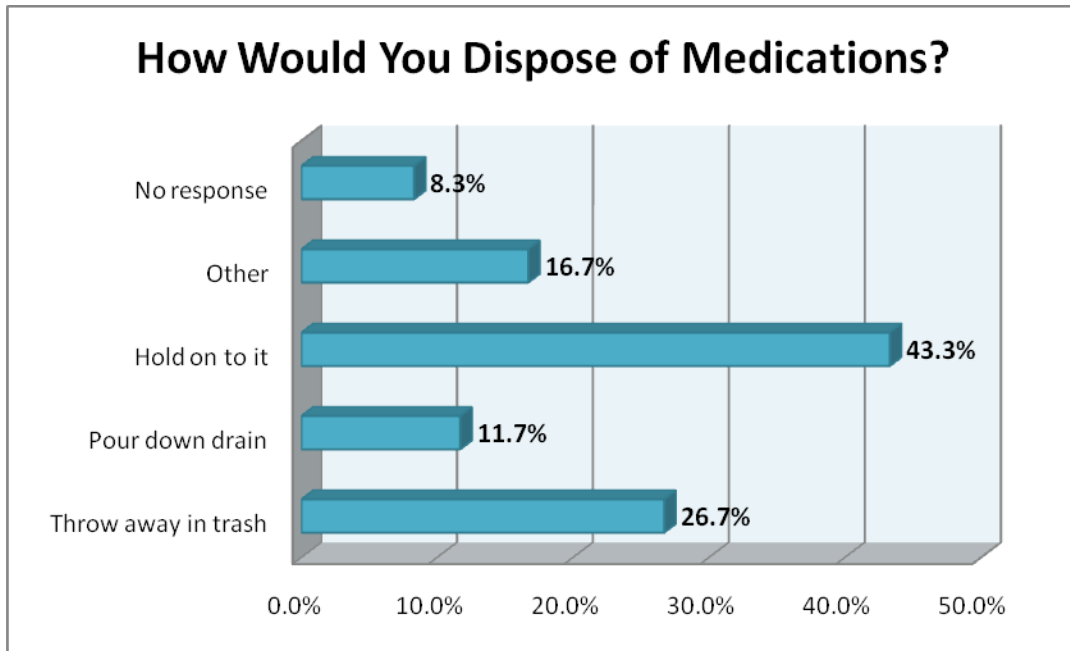


NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question

IF YOU HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THIS EVENT, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE WITH YOUR MEDICATION?

When asked what they would have done with their medications if the event did not take place, 43% of the participants responded they would have just held on to them and 27% would have thrown them in the trash. Of these respondents, 50 % said they knew how to properly dispose of unwanted medicines.

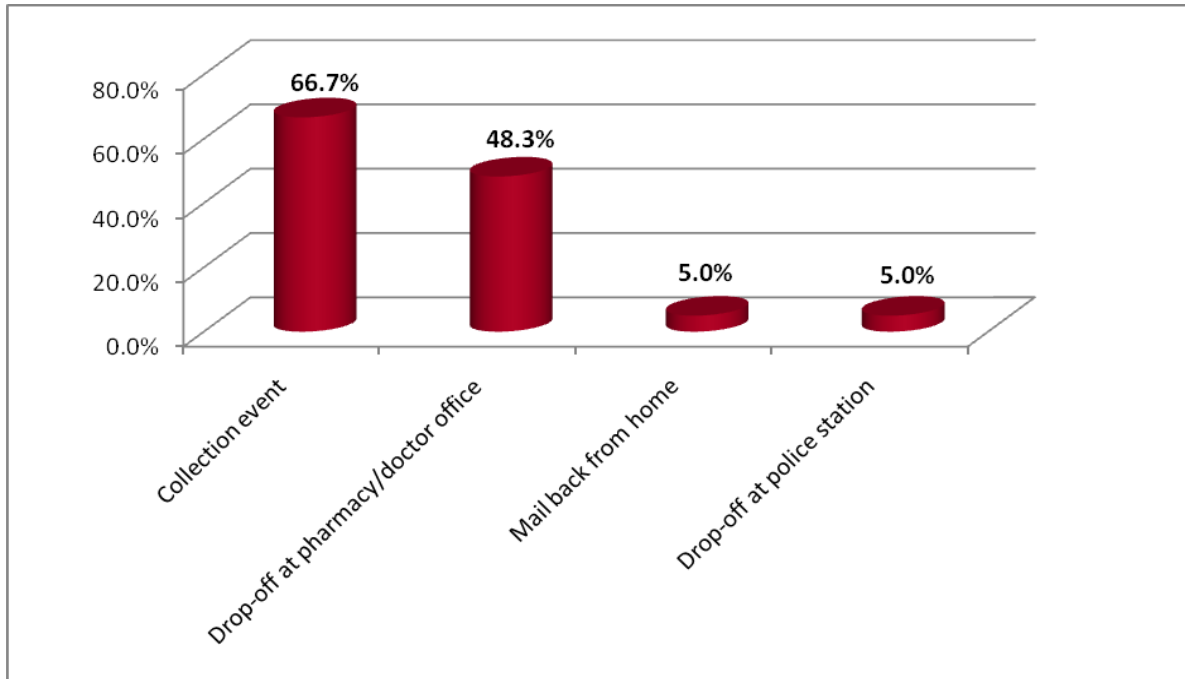
Fewer than 12% reported they would have disposed of the unwanted medicines by dumping them down the drain or toilet. Of these respondents, 71% have public sewage, and 14% have septic systems.



NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE BEST FUTURE METHOD FOR DISPOSING OF MEDICINES?

Participants were asked method what they would prefer in the future for disposing unwanted medicines. Sixty-seven percent reported they would like another collection event, and 48% reported that they would like to drop the medicines off at their pharmacy, or doctor’s office.



NOTE: Participants may have chosen more than one response when asked this question

COMMENTS:

Participants also shared a few comments about this event. They were very grateful this event was offered to them within their community and would like for similar programs to continue to be offered. The educational information provided was very helpful in providing people guidance on how to properly dispose of medicines.

CONCLUSIONS:

The program was an overall success with 60 participants disposing of medicines. The event collected 245 pounds of controlled, non-controlled, pet medicines, and over-the-counter substances. The average age of a person recycling their medications was 50-69 years of age. A majority of participants resided in the New Castle, New Wilmington, and Ellwood City areas. Participants were very appreciative to have had an opportunity like this within their own community, and would like this to continue in the future.

PROGRAM FLYER



For more information
please call:
**Lawrence County
Recycling/ Solid Waste**
(724) 658-6925



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Unwanted Medication Collection

**Jameson Health System
SOUTH CAMPUS
Conference Room**

1000 South Mercer Street, New Castle, PA 16101
**Saturday, November 6, 2010
10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Free Event
HIPAA Compliant
Pre-Registration Requested: Call 866-815-0016
Please Bring Medication in the Original Container

Law Enforcement and a licensed pharmacist will be on site to ensure all material collected is handled in accordance with all federal, state and local laws.

We Accept:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Veterinary medications
- Controlled and non-controlled substances
- Dietary supplements

We Do Not Accept:

- Durable medical goods •Health and beauty aids
- Infectious waste •Institutional waste
- Radioactive materials •Mercury thermometers
- Illegal/street substances •Medical sharps (needles)
- Medical devices and equipment



PROPER DISPOSAL METHOD

DO:

Take unwanted medication to an available collection event.

Follow these steps:

1. Keep all medication in the original container,
2. Leave the name of the medication visible on the label,
3. Use a black permanent marker to black-out personal information.

**If an event is NOT available,
dispose of unwanted medication at home.**

1. Black out personal information and name of medication on the drug container.
2. Take prescription drugs out of their original containers.
3. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter, used coffee grounds, or dirt.
4. Put mixture into a sealable bag or a disposable container with a lid.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture and the empty drug container **in the trash**.



DO NOT:

- Store Unwanted Medications
- Flush or Drain Unwanted Medications

PARTICIPANT SURVEY

SURVEY

Unwanted Medication Collection – Lawrence County

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Name of Township/Borough/City of Residence: _____

Zip Code: _____

Age of person filling out this survey:

18-29

30-49

50-69

70 and older

How did you learn about the collection? **(Check all that apply)**

Newspaper

Newsletter

Cable TV

Website

Flier

Brochure

Postcard

Other: _____

What pharmacy do you normally use? _____

Why is the drug being disposed of? **(Check all that apply)**

Did not like the medication (made me sick, etc...)

Manufacturer Recall

Expired/out-of-date medicine

Safety for self and household

Death (family member/friend)

Water or Environmental Concern

Never used prescription

Cleaning House

Other: _____

Where did the medication come from? **(Check all that apply)**

Self

Family or household member

Pet

Friend

Other: _____

If you had not heard about this event, what would you have done with your medication?

Throw away in trash-----Are you aware of the proper disposal method? Yes No

Pour down drain or toilet-----If so, are you on: Public Sewage Septic System

Hold on to medication

Other: _____

What do you think would be the best future method for disposing of medications?

Collection event

Mail-back from your home

Drop-off at pharmacy or doctor's office

Drop-off at police station

Additional Comments: _____

PHOTOS OF THE EVENT

Participant Registration



Drop Off Station



Drug Classification Station



Drums of Drugs



Sealing the Drums for Transportation and Disposal



Thanks for Lending a Hand!

...with the 2010
Unwanted Medication
Collection Event.



Because of your efforts, we
retrieved 245 lbs of unwanted

medications that otherwise could
have been poured down the drain or
sent to a landfill.



Together, we make a difference.
Together, we make a difference.

With gratitude,
Lawrence County Conservation District and the
Lawrence-Mercer Counties Recycling Department.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can
change the world; indeed it's the only the thing that ever has."*

Margaret Mead

THANK YOU

To Our Program

Sponsors

“Unwanted Medication Collection” Coordinating Partners and In-Kind Donors:

1. City of New Castle Police Department
2. Ellwood City Hospital
3. Ellwood City Wastewater Treatment Plant
4. Jameson Health System
5. Lawrence County Conservation District
6. Lawrence County Sheriff’s Department
7. Lawrence-Mercer County Recycling/Solid Waste Department
8. New Castle Sanitation Authority
9. PA American Water Company
10. PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties
11. Pennsylvania Department of Health
12. Pennsylvania State Police

Funding:

1. Lawrence County Drug Task Force
2. PA American Water Company
3. PA Department of Environmental Protection
4. USDA Rural Utilities Service
5. US EPA
6. WREN