The Dispose-A-Med Program

Protecting the Public and Environment

Karin Merritt, Compliance and Lab Manager
15 September 2017
The Dispose-A-Med Mission

To be a central resource to coordinate, educate and promote safe disposal, storage and use of medications to protect public health, the environment and drinking water quality.
The Dispose-A-Med Program Profile

• A national, state and countywide program
• Launched in 2009 in Pima County
• Pioneered locally by Oro Valley Police to mitigate potential prescription drug abuse
• Initially managed by Pima County Wastewater Reclamation to:
  • build a coalition to address public health & safety
  • address potential environmental impacts
• Program transferred to Health Department in 2011
• Became a 501c3 non-profit organization in 2014
  • affiliated with Center for Pima Basin Sustainability
• Currently a community coalition of 65 members
Dispose-A-Med

Improper storage & disposal of medications contributes to potential abuse and poses a threat to the environment and our water supplies.

- Non-medical use of prescription pain relievers is the second-most prevalent form of illicit drug use in the U.S.
- 400% increase in U.S. emergency room admissions & substance abuse treatment centers
- In 2016, 263 accidental and overdose deaths were reported by the Pima County Medical Examiner
- The State of Arizona reported 1,493 deaths

This issue affects all of us

A Healthy Pima County. Everyone. Everywhere. Every day.
Health Department and Dispose-A-Med

• Dispose A Med Partnerships – Supporting community education and collaboration
  • PCOA – Be Med Smart
  • Pima CPC – Medicine Abuse Prevention Initiative Collaborative (MAPIC)
  • Commission on Addiction Prevention & Treatment (CAPT) – Joint Pima County and City of Tucson

• Healthy Pima 2.0
  • Substance Abuse and Mental Health Action Group

• The AZ Rx Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative Toolkit
  • Strategies #1 – Reduce illicit acquisition and diversion of Rx

• Opioid Abuse Prevention Symposium Sept. 15, Westward Look

• Proclaiming the week of September 18th as “Safe Use and Disposal of Medications Awareness Week”
  • Jurisdictions supporting the week of September 18 with proclamation adoptions
  • Pima County, City of Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana (potential), Tohono O’odham (potential), Sahuarita
## Dispose-A-Med

Items that Dispose-A-Med can and cannot accept at donation boxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Expired/unused/unneeded prescriptions and over-the-counter meds</td>
<td>• Liquids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tablets</td>
<td>• Creams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Capsules</td>
<td>• Inhalation/aerosol bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vitamins</td>
<td>• Sharps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Veterinarian-prescribed meds</td>
<td>• Household hazardous waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Batteries</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dispose-A-Med Locations

17 permanent drop off locations

- Pima County Sheriff – 6
- Tucson Police – 5
- So. Tucson Police 1
- Walgreens – 4
- Banner UMC -1

Free ● Safe ● Secure ● Confidential

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Dispose-A-Med Events

Upcoming dates

• Tues, September 12, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
  Sun City Vistoso, 1565 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd

• Sat, September 23, 9a.m. –Noon
  In Front of Target @ 10555 N Oracle Rd.

• Sat, October 14th, 10 a.m. – noon
  In front of the Target @ 3901 W. Ina Rd

For additional information and dates
(520) 724-7911
www.disposeamed.pima.gov
Proper Disposal of Medications

**SHARPS NEEDLES, SYRINGES, LANCETS**
- Place sharps in a puncture proof plastic container with a screw-on lid (for example: a rigid detergent bottle)
- Clearly label the container “NON-RECYCLABLE”; secure the lid with duct tape
- Place in a trash container. DO NOT RECYCLE

**LIQUID MEDICATIONS**
- Pour liquid medication into a water-tight container, such as an empty margarine tub
- Mix in used coffee grounds, kitty litter or soil
- Seal it with duct tape
- Place in a trash container. DO NOT RECYCLE

**ITEMS LABELED**
- ACID, FLAMMABLE, CAUSTIC, POISON, CAUTION, TOXIC, DANGER OR WARNING
- Drop off at a Household Hazardous Waste site
tucsonaz.gov/es/household-hazardous-waste
(520) 888-6947

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Positive Community Impacts

Local

• Collection of 34,823 lbs. of unused or expired drugs to date
• Participated in 12 nationwide Take-Back events 2010-2016

State

• Collected 111,567 lbs.

National

• Collected 7.1 million lbs.

1 lb = 850 pills
29.6 Million pills (Pima Co)
20% Opioid = 5.9 million pills

Source: DEA.gov (http://www.dea.gov/divisions/phx/phx.shtml)

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Call to Action: How You Can Help

Secure drugs in your home

Properly dispose of medicine, sharps, etc.

Support our Proclamation for the Week of Sept 18th “Safe Use and Disposal of Medication Awareness Week”

Share the message with others – Tell 5 people about it & add to your Facebook, Twitter, etc.

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Contact Information

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www.pima.gov/health
Pima County Health Department
@PCHD
Pimacountyhealth

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