

## DEA National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is sponsoring a National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day on September 25, 2010. A nation-wide event will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical substance abuse, while providing a secure and environmentally friendly outlet for disposal that will protect our water resources.

Easy access and stockpiling of medications has led to an increase in the number of people in Colorado abusing and becoming addicted to prescription drugs. In 2008, 562 Coloradans died from abuse of prescription drugs, three times more than died in drunken driving-related crashes. Both nationally and locally, 20% to 30% of high school students report using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them, the majority easily obtained from friends and family medicine cabinets.

Since you are a member of your community with an interest in public and environmental health, I am making you aware of this event so that you might contact your local law enforcement agency and offer assistance in this worthwhile effort. Assistance could take the form of manpower and/or preparation and distribution of event promotional materials, or, on a personal level, simply encouraging your neighbors to participate. Your help will ensure a successful, community-based effort.

DEA mailed invitations to participate to all sheriff departments, police departments and drug task forces nationwide. As of August 19th, 52 Colorado agencies have agreed to participate. Law enforcement agencies were the targeted event hosts due to the collection of controlled substances. The DEA is paying the costs of transport and disposal for all medications collected during this event.

For more information and a list of locations, visit <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/>.

Thank you for your consideration.  
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