Prescription painkiller overdoses now kill more people in the U.S. than heroin and cocaine combined.

– U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

The abuse of prescription painkillers is every bit as dangerous and deadly as the abuse of illicit drugs such as heroin – and it is growing at epidemic rates. For those who abuse and sell these drugs, the easiest way to obtain them is to raid the medicine cabinets of relatives and acquaintances.

Project Medicine Drop is an important part of New Jersey's solution to this problem.

In partnership with local law enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs has made it as easy as possible for you to safely and securely dispose of your unused medications.

We also provide valuable information on how to keep a close eye on the medications in your home … and how to talk with your relatives about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

Read on for important guidance on how to Be AWARxE – and handle your prescription medications responsibily.

To learn more call 800-242-5846 or visit www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop

PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

Everyone must take responsibility to help stop the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. This includes law enforcement and regulatory agencies, doctors and pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies –and everyday citizens.

Project Medicine Drop lets you dispose of your unused and expired household medications, safely and securely, at any time: 24/7/365.

Visit www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop

My nearest Drop Box location:

Borough of Westville
Police Department
167 Broadway
Westville, NJ 08093

NJ Division of Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 45027
Newark, NJ 07101

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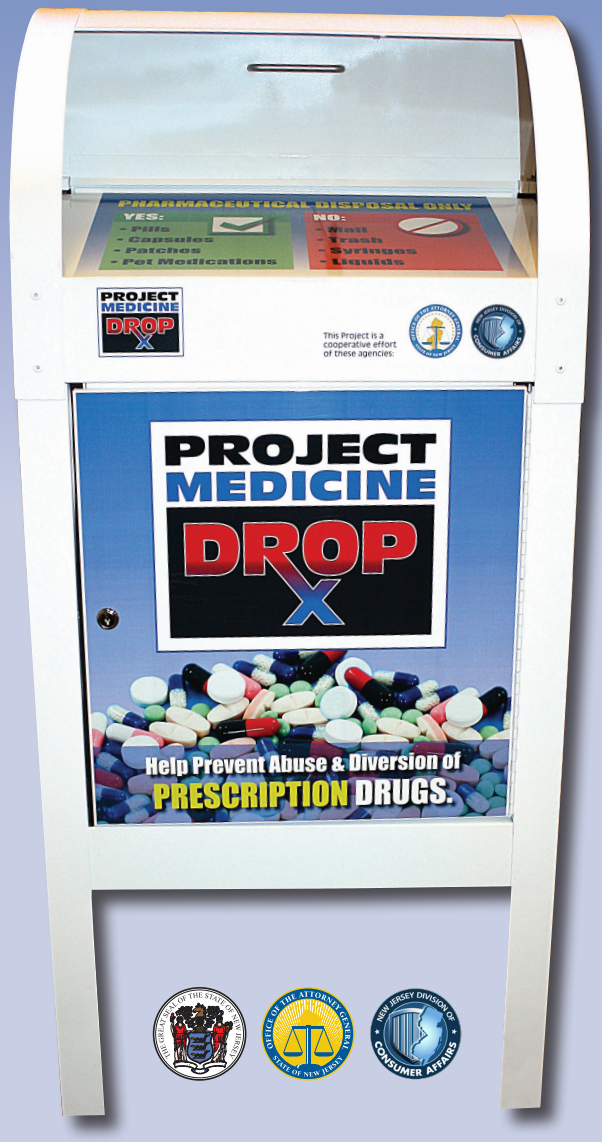
PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

— A SAFE AND SECURE WAY TO DISPOSE OF —
UNUSED MEDICATION



Two in five teenagers mistakenly believe prescription drugs are "much safer" than illegal drugs.

– U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

STEP ONE: Communicate With Your Loved Ones

Parents, grandparents and young people should talk about the dangers of taking prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications for nonmedical and nonapproved uses.

Make sure your young relatives know you will be keeping an eye on the prescription and OTC drugs in your home, and that you have asked other relatives to do the same.

Be alert for the possible signs of drug abuse and addiction; visit our website for specifics.

STEP TWO: Keep Track of the Medications In Your Home

Keep an inventory of the prescription and OTC medications in your home. Update it every six months – or more often, if you suspect abuse.

If you have many different medications, keep all of them in one place in your home.

Consider keeping them in a locked cabinet, locked drawer, or childproof lock box.

In a growing trend, N.J. teens who abused prescription drugs went on to become addicted, and turned to heroin use.

– N.J. State Commission of Investigation

STEP THREE: Dispose of Unneeded Medications

Doctors may prescribe more medications than you actually need. As a result, you may have a large number of unused and expired medications. It is important to dispose of these drugs in a manner that is safe and secure – and keep them from falling into the hands of anyone who might abuse them.

DO NOT give them to friends. Doctors prescribe drugs based on patients' specific symptoms and medical histories. A drug that helps you may harm someone else.

DO NOT simply flush them into the water supply – this causes risks to the environment, and may affect the health of others. Many medications can have harmful effects on children, infants or pregnant women, for example – and should not be released into the environment.

DO NOT simply place medications into the trash. This may make them available to those who would abuse or sell them.

The safest and most secure way to dispose of unused medications is through **Project Medicine Drop.** Go to our website, www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop, to find the **Project Medicine Drop** location nearest to you.

Each year, thousands of New Jerseyans enter addiction treatment programs due to prescription drug abuse.

– Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Admin.

We have placed secure, metal drop boxes at participating law enforcement agencies.

The **Project Medicine Drop** boxes are available to the public 24/7 – and the contents are secured and destroyed by law enforcement officers authorized to handle them.

New Jersey residents can visit their nearest Drop Box location and dispose of their unused medications, according to the instructions. It's as simple as that.

Please be aware that **Project Medicine Drop** boxes ONLY accept household medications, and ONLY accept solid materials such as pills and capsules.

To safely dispose of liquid medications – or to dispose of drugs if a **Project Medicine Drop** box is not located near you – follow these steps:

Make the medications unattractive and difficult to get to, by mixing them with coffee grounds or kitty litter. Pour the mixture into a sealable bag, coffee can or other sealable container. Before disposing of a medicine container, be sure to scratch out any prescription information such as your name and address, in order to protect your identity.

To learn more call 800-242-5846 or visit www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop