

# PREVENTION FIRST

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Press Contact

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## The DEA and Partners Hold 21st National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

SPRINGFIELD, IL October 1 2021 The Drug Enforcement Agency's next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is on Saturday October 23rd, 2021 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible way of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential abuse of medications. Individuals can dispose of unused or expired prescription and non-prescription medicine at designated drop-off locations throughout the state of Illinois.

During the last Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 24, 2021, Illinois hosted 153 drop-off sites, collected 26,314 pounds of unused prescription medication and engaged 172 law enforcement agencies. This year, the DEA and partners look forward to spreading greater awareness around potential abuse of medication and safely disposing of even more prescription medicine.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 20.5 million Americans above the age of 12 misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that most abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. The DEA's 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment identified controlled prescription drugs as the second most commonly misused substance in the United States. The DEA National Drug Threat Assessment and the Chicago Field Division Office reported that controlled prescription drug availability in Illinois remains stable and at high levels.

Drug Take Back Day provides an opportunity to impact the opioid overdose rate, which also remains a public health concern in Illinois. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, In 2020, opioid overdose deaths among Illinois residents increased 32.7% from 2,219 deaths in 2019 to 2,944 deaths in 2020.

"National Prescription Drug Take Back day provides a practical way for individuals and communities to help combat such a pervasive problem," commented Karel Homrig, Executive Director of Prevention First. "It's important that we promote and engage with this event so that together we help prevent misuse and potentially save lives."

Those participating in Drug Take Back Day can visit [takebackday.dea.gov](https://takebackday.dea.gov) to locate a collection site or call the DEA Diversion Control Division Registration Call Center at 1-800-882-9539 for more information about these collection sites. Authorized collection sites may be retail, hospital, clinic pharmacies and law enforcement facilities.

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All personal information on pill bottle labels and medicine packaging must be removed before being dropped off. Medicine collected at the take back locations will be destroyed. For safety reasons, there are a few, select medicines with specific instructions to immediately flush down the toilet only if a drug take back option is not readily available.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with substance use, the IL Helpline can be reached three ways: [helpline.org](https://www.ilhelpline.org), call 833-234-6343 or text “HELP” to 833234.

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Visit [prevention.org](https://www.prevention.org) for additional information and resources.