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### The 30th Prescription Drug Take Back Day to Be Held April 25, 2026

[Springfield, IL] – April 23, 2026 – Prevention First is proud to support the 30th [National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#) on April 25, 2026. Organized by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Take Back Day provides a safe, convenient, and responsible way for individuals to dispose of their unused and/or expired prescription medications. With nearly 4,200 collection sites nationwide, this initiative helps protect youth, families, and communities by reducing the risk of drug misuse.

Since its inception in 2010, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has succeeded in collecting more than 20.4 million pounds of medication. With the support of law enforcement partners and community organizations across the country, the most recent observance, held in October 2025, brought in over 571,054 pounds of unneeded and/or expired prescription medications.

According to a [2024 report](#) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 13.8 million Americans annually misuse prescription medications – with most obtaining them from a family member or friend, often without their knowledge. This data underpins the importance of Take Back Day as a critical public safety initiative. By proactively disposing of unused or expired medications, Illinoisans can help ensure their home medicine cabinet never becomes an unintended source of harm for someone they care about.

Prevention First encourages all individuals to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on **April 25, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Drop off is free, safe, and anonymous. For those unable to attend, year-round medication disposal is also available at over 17,000 permanent drop-off boxes in communities nationwide. Those locations can be found [here](#).

For more information and resources on substance misuse, visit [prevention.org](https://prevention.org).

## About Prevention First

Prevention First is an Illinois-based nonprofit with more than 40 years of experience in substance use prevention and mental health promotion. Through training, technical assistance, and advocacy, Prevention First equips individuals, families, schools, and communities across Illinois with the knowledge and tools to prevent substance use before it starts. Learn more at [prevention.org](https://prevention.org).

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