



PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS: SAFETY FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSPECTIVE

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Prescription Drug Epidemic

- Non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks 2nd only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.
- Over 7 million Americans abuse prescription medication. That is more than cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, Ecstasy, and inhalants combined.
- Abuse has gone up over 80% in the last seven years.



Prescription Drug Epidemic

- Teenagers age 12-17 are the fastest growing group of prescription drug abusers.
- 1 in 5 teens has abused a prescription pain medication
- Since 2004, Clatsop County has met or exceeded the state % for prescription drug abuse by 8th graders.
- Since 2004, Clatsop County has doubled or almost doubled the state % for 11th graders.



Prescription Drug Epidemic

- The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends – and the home medicine cabinet.
- When asked, many teens & adults think prescription drugs are safe because they have legitimate uses. Self-medication.



Are you a drug dealer?

- Many households are full of prescription medications.
- “Unwitting Suppliers”
- Creating safety situations for young children.
- Target for criminals.
- Hurting the environment.



Addressing the Problem

- Fall of 2009 creation of Sub-Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse (within RUDTF)
- Focus on education, presentations, possibly a take-back.
- Various programs around nation, a few in-state. Sent email to all chiefs requesting information.
- APD meeting with Oregon Hospice on pilot mail-back program.



Addressing the Problem

- January 2010 Deschutes County put us in touch with Leanna Lindquist of OMAA.
- We signed on to participate in a state-wide Take Back Day March 13th, 2010



Initial Take-Back Event

- Clatsop County had Three Sites
- Total of **122** pounds was collected

Astoria



Seaside



Warrenton



Initial Take-Back Event



Lock Your Meds

- National Campaign to reduce prescription drug abuse by making adults aware of how to protect and quantify their medications.
- www.lockyourmeds.org



Second Take-Back Event

- American Medicine Chest Challenge on November 13th, 2010. Over 500 sites across the nation.
- Clatsop County again had Three Sites
- Total of **241** pounds was collected

Seaside



Warrenton

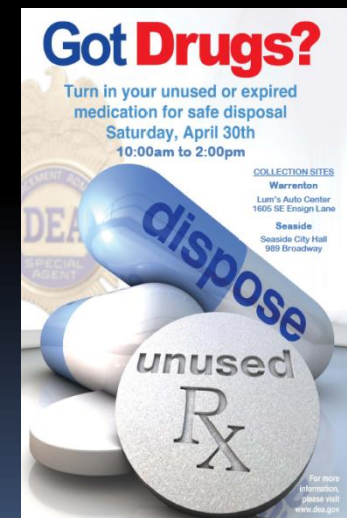
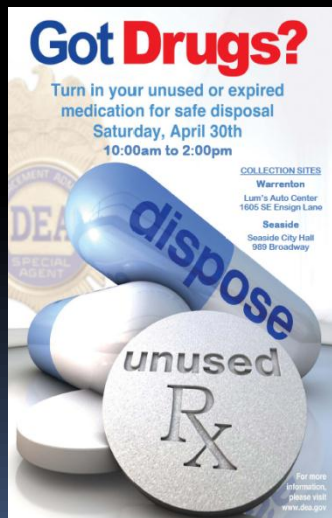


Second Take-Back Event



Third Take-Back Event

- Partnered with the DEA on April 30th, 2011.
- Seaside & Warrenton Sites only.
- Total of **204** pounds was collected, **193** pounds in Warrenton.



Third Take-Back Event



Transition to Year-Round Drop-Boxes

- Boxes are now available for use in:
 - Astoria Police Department (24hrs)
 - Seaside Police Department (24hrs)
 - Warrenton Police Department (8am-5pm)
 - Cannon Beach Police (coming soon)





What Next?

- Continue Large Annual Take-Back Event.
- Encourage the frequent use of the medication drip-boxes.
- Expand education outreach for ALL age groups.
- Start an “early alert system” for pharmacies and prescribers to find doctor-shoppers.
- Work to reduce the amount of medication that is being prescribed to a more reasonable amount per patient.



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