



Statewide Drug Disposal System

Providing safe drug disposal options to Vermonters

Division of Substance Use Programs

June 2024

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) supports a statewide prescription drug disposal system. The goal of this system is to create easy and safe ways for people to get rid of expired or unused prescription medications. The system includes a range of partners including prevention coalitions, law enforcement, pharmacies, long-term care facilities and others.

Key Points

- **In 2023, 27,000 lbs. (13.5 tons) of medication was safely disposed of by Vermonters**
- **Over 7,800 free mail-back envelopes were distributed to Vermonters**

Supporting safe drug storage and disposal

Location Finder

An interactive list of Vermont's drug disposal locations is available at healthvermont.gov/DoYourPart and contains information like location, hours and the type of medications accepted for disposal. [Regional Prevention Consultants](#) and [Offices of Local Health](#) also provide this information.

Disposal Kiosks

In 2023, drug disposal kiosks provided by DSU collected over 27,000 lbs (13.5 tons) of medication at police stations, pharmacies and hospitals.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Take-Back Days

[DEA National Take Back Days](#) encourage people to safely dispose of unused drugs by dropping them off at participating locations twice a year, in April and October. In 2023, a total of almost 10,500 lbs. (5+ tons) of medication were disposed of safely at 55 Vermont locations during the April and October Take Back Days. In April 2024, over 5,700 lbs were disposed of on Take Back Day. To date, over 118,000 lbs have been disposed of at Vermont Take Back Day events.

Law Enforcement Drug Disposal Project

The Lamoille County Sheriff Department provides training to state and local law enforcement agencies on proper handling of disposed medications. In 2023, Vermont law enforcement collected over 9,200 lbs. of medication (in addition to what was collected on Take Back Days).

Mail-Back Envelopes

Free mail-back envelopes are provided to Vermonters for safe, convenient and anonymous drug disposal. Return mailing is pre-paid and envelopes can be requested through healthvermont.gov/RxMailBack. In 2023, over 7,800 envelopes were distributed around Vermont.

Do Your Part Campaign

[Do Your Part](#) informs Vermonters about safe storage and disposal of unused prescription drugs. This campaign outlines reasons to store and dispose of medications safely, including:



1. Reduce use of medications by people who have not been prescribed them.
2. Reduce accidental ingestion by kids and pets.
3. Protect the environment and wildlife from medications disposed of in the trash or septic system.

For more information, contact ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov, with subject line “2024 Annual Overview: Drug Disposal.”