



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release
Additional Information Contact:
Gene M. Ransom, MedChi CEO
Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – October 23

BALTIMORE, October 22, 2021—MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is supporting The Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day gives the public an opportunity to help prevent pill misuse and theft by clearing homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications. People can find a site near them by [clicking here](#) and searching by zip code. Please note that the DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The 20th Annual National Take Back Day was a huge success. Americans turned in 420 tons (839,543 pounds) of prescription drugs at 5,060 sites operated by the DEA and over 4,400 of its state and local law enforcement partners at the last Take-Back Day on April 24, 2021. Overall, all previous Take Back events have taken in over 14.5 million pounds—about 7,250 tons—of pills and other materials. Maryland alone has collected 109,988 pounds since the first Take Back Day event.

According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, states “as a community, we are still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic along with the opioid crisis and facing unprecedented challenges for families and communities. The upcoming DEA Take-Back Day is a positive step Americans can take to help.”

For more information about the disposal of prescription medications or about the April 24 Take Back Day event, go to <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.