



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release
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**MEDCHI SUPPORTS DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK
DAY APRIL 27TH**

BALTIMORE, April 23, 2019—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is having a nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. For more information about this event, and to find collection locations near you, visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

The DEA hosts two National Take Back Days every year. Last April, Americans turned in 474.5 tons (or 949,046 pounds) of prescription drugs at 5,482 sites at the 15th National Take Back event. At the 16th National Take Back event in October, they received over 457 tons (or 914,236 pounds) of prescription drugs at 5,839 collection sites. These events were operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners – close to 4,700 law enforcement personnel participated in each one.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. It has also been advised that other methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Gene M. Ransom, III, MedChi CEO, states “MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, wants to help prevent prescription medication misuse in order to save lives and is encouraging all Marylanders to participate in this take back event. Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands which can be dangerous and often tragic.”

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.