



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – April 24

BALTIMORE, April 20, 2021—MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is supporting The Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, April 24, 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 19th Annual National Take Back Day was a huge success. Americans turned in over 492 tons (985,392 pounds) of prescription drugs at close to 4,600 sites operated by the DEA and over 4,100 of its state and local law enforcement partners at the last Take-Back Day on October 24, 2020. Overall, all previous Take Back events have taken in over 13.6 million pounds—about 6,800 tons—of pills and other materials. Maryland alone has collected 9,180 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.

Yngvild Olsen, M.D. co-chair of MedChi’s Addiction Committee, states “The opioid crisis and COVID-19 pandemic are intersecting with each other and presenting unprecedented challenges for families and communities. We are seeing the impacts of COVID-related isolation and stress in more substance use and overdoses. In the midst of this, the 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.