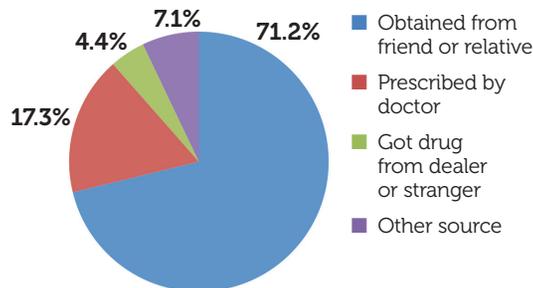


DID YOU KNOW?

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the US.

- **1 in 4 teens** report having misused or abused prescription medicine at least once. More than half of teens said it was easy to get these medicines from their parent's medicine cabinet.
- **More people die** from prescription drugs overdoses than from car accidents or overdoses of street drugs such as cocaine and heroin.
- **71 percent of people** who abuse prescription pain killers obtain them from a friend or relative.

Pain Killer Abuse: Sources



Source: CDC 2011

DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

DEA & Law Enforcement Take-Back

- Visit dea.gov for the dates/locations of the DEA National Take-Back Initiative in the Spring and Fall of each year
- Visit colorado.gov/cdphe/rxdrug for law enforcement take-back locations
- Accepted medicines: all medicines except syringes and injectables
- These sites accept narcotics and controlled substances (Percocet, Oxycontin, Vicodin, Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, etc.)

No questions asked!

Colorado Medication Take-Back Project

- Call (303) 692-2903 or visit coloradomedtakeback.info for a list of locations
- Accepted medicines: over-the-counter medicines (vitamins, cough and cold pills, etc.), prescription medicines (pills, inhalers, creams/ointments, patches, etc.), and pet medicines
- Not Accepted: Narcotics and other controlled substances, syringes or injectable medicines.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

This guide only applies to household pharmaceutical waste.

April 2014

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S TAKING YOUR MEDICINE?



**store safely
...dispose wisely**

**Safe drug disposal
saves lives and protects
drinking water supplies**

You can help by **monitoring** your drugs and **disposing** of them properly

DO:

- **Store safely and dispose wisely.**
- **Store your medicines safely** away from children or others who could take your medicine without your permission. This may mean locking up your medicines.
- **Practice safe disposal** by taking unused or expired medicines to a disposal location (see list on back panel).

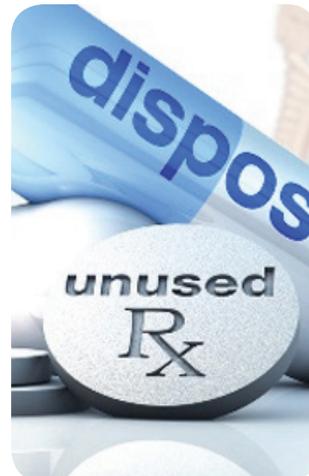
DON'T:

- **Flush pills or liquid medication** down the toilet or drain. Flushing pollutes drinking water and potentially harms aquatic life.

Studies have detected medicines in our water supplies.

If you have no other choice, you can throw most medicines in household trash if you follow these steps:

- Remove medicine from containers and destroy labels to help protect privacy. Recycle containers if possible or hide them in the trash.
- Mix medicine with something that cannot be eaten, such as used cat litter or coffee grounds, to prevent accidental or intentional misuse of medicine by children or animals.
- Wrap the mixture in another material, such as newsprint or a paper sack, or place medicine in sealable containers (cans, plastic bags).
- Throw in the trash on the day your garbage is collected.



DO TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN DISPOSING OF SYRINGES & PATCHES

Syringes & Sharps:

- Place syringes and other injectables in a rigid (empty laundry detergent) or metal container with a screw-on cap.
- Place a label/warning on the container (Example: Syringes – Do Not Recycle).
- Place sealed containers in the trash, not recycling.
- Or purchase a sharps container at your pharmacy. Your pharmacy may sell pre-labeled, mail-back containers.

Patches:

- Only for used fentanyl or Duragesic pain patches: fold in half, sticky side together, and flush down the toilet. These patches are dangerous if not flushed immediately after use.
- Take unopened patches to the DEA National Take-Back Initiative or to a local law enforcement drop-box.
- Use the Colorado Medication Take-Back Project or DEA National Take-Back Initiative for proper disposal of other patches.