

Is your medicine cabinet crowded with unused or expired medications?

Do you know there is a safe, free and convenient way to dispose of your over-the-counter and prescription medicines – no questions asked?

operation **medicine drop**

Operation Medicine Drop is a partnership between law enforcement, health and safety advocates, substance abuse prevention professionals, environmental agencies and other organizations working together to provide N.C. communities a safe way to dispose of expired, unused over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Safe disposal of medications eliminates the risk of potentially dangerous drugs getting into the hands of children or teens and protects our environment, lakes, rivers and streams from contamination.

Safe Kids North Carolina and its partners have established more than 250 permanent medication collection sites (most of which are open seven days a week) and host statewide OMD Take-Back events twice a year.



From 2016 – 2017, the Carolinas Poison Center answered 151,420 calls from the public and healthcare providers in North Carolina.

protect **communities**

If a guest in your home put a few pills in their pocket, would you know?

Each year in our state, there are more than 1,300 deaths and over 20,000 ER visits due to overdoses. This represents a 350% increase since 1999, with almost half of them involving prescription opioids. In 2016, for the first time, unintentional poisoning was the leading cause of injury death to North Carolinians.

protect **kids**

Are all the medicines in your home stored safely?

According to a report by Safe Kids Worldwide, each year more than 60,000 children age 5 and under are treated in emergency rooms throughout the U.S. due to accidental medication exposure or overdose. In almost all of these visits, a child got into medicines while the parent or caregiver wasn't looking.

protect **waters**

As you drink water from the tap, are you taking someone else's medications?

Trace levels of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines have been found in rivers, lakes and in some community drinking water supplies. This is a concern among scientists due to the possible long-term consequences to human health.



What's in **YOUR** Medicine Cabinet?

operation
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drop

NC Department of Insurance
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
1-888-347-3737

Mike Causey, Commissioner

www.safekidsnc.org

safestorage

Store all medicines in a locked location, out of the sight and reach of children. Use lock-tight containers, not cups or reminder containers.

Buy child-resistant packages and securely close them every time.

Remind babysitters, houseguests and visitors to keep purses and bags that contain medicine up and out of sight when they visit your home.



Operation Medicine Drop was established in 2010. Since then, more than 3,000 Take-Back events have been held across the state, 250 Permanent Drop-Box sites have opened statewide, and more than 105 million prescription and over-the-counter pills have been safely disposed of – saving countless lives as well as the environment.



operation medicine drop

safekidsnc.org
1-888-347-3737



safe dosing

Follow label instructions when giving medicines to children.

Don't give your child multiple medicines with the same active ingredient.

Wait the appropriate time between doses.

Never increase the prescribed dosage on your own.

Don't give adult medications to children.

Don't take medicines in front of children younger than 4 years old. They may try to copy your behavior.



do your part



You can help your community by keeping unused or expired medications out of the wrong hands.

safe disposal

Properly dispose of medications at a Take-Back event or Permanent Drop-Box location near you.

Remove any instructions and personal information from the bottle or packaging.

Never share medications with others, even those who say they take the same medication.

Don't take medicines in front of children younger than 4 years old. They may try to copy your behavior.



More than 50% of calls to national poison centers involve children under the age of 6. Medications are the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths among children.

Program the Poison Control Center number into all your phones: 1-800-222-1222

Each year, more than 60,000 children are treated in emergency rooms throughout the U.S. due to accidental medication exposure or overdose.

That's roughly 4 school busloads of children per day.

