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## **DEA brings in record number of unused pills during 15th annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

*Federal, state and local partners collect close to one million pounds across the country*

**(WASHINGTON)** – Americans nationwide did their part to drop off a record number of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications during the DEA’s 15th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, at close to 6,000 sites across the country. Together with a record-setting amount of local, state and federal partners, DEA collected and destroyed close to one million pounds—nearly 475 tons—of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, making it the most successful event in DEA history.

This brings the total amount of prescription drugs collected by DEA since the fall of 2010 to 9,964,714 pounds, or 4,982 tons.

“Today we are facing the worst drug crisis in American history, with one American dying of a drug overdose every nine minutes,” said Attorney General Jeff Sessions. “An unprecedented crisis like this one demands an unprecedented response--and that's why President Trump has made this issue a priority for this administration. DEA's National Drug Take Back Days are important opportunities for people to turn in unwanted and potentially addictive drugs with no questions asked. These Take Back Days continue to break records, with the latest taking nearly 1 million pounds of prescription drugs off of our streets. And so I want to thank DEA and especially every American who participated in this event. I have no doubt it will help keep drugs out of the wrong hands and stop the spread of addiction.”

“National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a day for every American, in every community across the country, to come together and do his or her part to fight the opioid crisis – simply by disposing of unwanted prescription medications from their medicine cabinets,” said DEA Acting Administrator Robert W. Patterson. “This event – our 15th – brings us together with local, state and federal partners to fight the abuse of prescription drugs that is fueling the nation’s opioid epidemic.”

Now in its 9th year, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day events continue to remove ever-higher amounts of opioids and other medicines from the nation’s homes, where they could be stolen and abused by family members and visitors, including children and teens.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

DEA launched its prescription drug take back program when both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration advised the public that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—posed potential safety and health hazards.

Helping people to dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one way DEA is working to reduce the addiction and overdose deaths plaguing this country due to opioid medications.

Complete results for DEA’s spring Take Back Day are available at <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>. DEA’s next Prescription Drug Take Back Day is **October 27, 2018**.

**In addition to the year-round “take back” locations found at the DEA link above, Prescription Drug Take Back boxes are in place at these locations:**

**MISSOURI RIVER DRUG TASK FORCE**

**Authorized Collection Box Sites**

**Belgrade Police Department\***

91 E. Central Avenue  
Belgrade, MT 59714

**Bozeman Police Department\***

121 N. Rouse Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Helena Police Department & Lewis and Clark Sheriff**

221 Breckenridge  
Helena, MT 59601

**Law & Justice Center**

615 South 16<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Manhattan Police Department\***

120 W. Main  
Manhattan, MT 59741

**Park County Sheriff**

414 E. Callender St., Suite 2  
Livingston, MT 59047

**Town of West Yellowstone\***

124 Yellowstone Ave.  
West Yellowstone, MT 59759

**\*Prescription Drug Take-Back box  
funded by Elks National Beacon Grant,  
and placed by Bozeman Elks Lodge #463.**