



**U.S. National Library of Medicine**  
*National Network of Libraries of Medicine*



# **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day:** **Let's Build Healthy Communities Together**

## **Facilitator Guide**

A Program to Help Facilitate Learning, Awareness, and Empowerment Around Safe Medication Return & Practices

[nnlm.gov/all-of-us](https://nnlm.gov/all-of-us)

**All of Us**  
RESEARCH PROGRAM

The  
Future of  
Health Begins  
With You

# Why This Program-In-A-Box?

When it comes to safely disposing of medications and general safe practices around medications it starts with each and every one of us. We all play a role in keeping our families, environment, and community free from the dangers of medications in the wrong place or hands. Also we want to do the right thing when it comes to taking prescribed medications for our health and for those around us. Even if we do not take medications ourselves, we or our children or family members may be. Or it could be that it's the water you are drinking or your kid's favorite swimming or fishing hole that's impacted.



Safe medication return and taking medications safely and appropriately is what's best for all of us. **The National Prescription Drug Take Back is an excellent place to start engaging your community around this important issue.**

**Let's begin building healthier communities today by participating in safe return and disposal of medications.** By doing so, each of us supports a stronger future for our children, families, and Nation. Medications can be helpful and are often vital to health. At the same time, medications can be overwhelming and used inappropriately. This Program-in-a-Box will, help librarians facilitate learning, awareness, and empowerment Around Safe Medication Return & Practices with members of their community.

# Overview

This Program-in-a-Box was developed by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine *All of Us* Community Engagement Network in cooperation with the Public Library Association. It is intended to be delivered to public library patrons by library staff. If possible, it would be best to partner with a local pharmacist to gather and deliver the content of this program.

**The program consists of three parts:**

## **1. Community Outreach & Gathering Information (30 mins)**

In order to prepare for a presentation tailored to your specific community and State we guide you to specific resources to help gather this information. In addition, we suggest some optional activities to reach out to your local community.

**Tools Provided:** You will find a presentation check-list immediately following this page leading you through this brief preparation process.

## **2. Library Presentation & Discussion with Community (45 mins)**

Give a presentation around the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to your local community at the library. If possible plan the presentation in conjunction with an upcoming Take Back Day or collection event. Invite members of your community: for example the sheriff's office, pharmacists, students, and others.

### **Tools provided:**

- Promotional pieces to advertise the event in your community
- PowerPoint presentation with an accompanying script
- Handouts
- Survey

## **3. Plan or Promote an Action Step (optional)**

Promote an upcoming Take Back Event or a local Safe Medication Take Back Program within your State or community. Plan a way to recognize those who participate in a Take Back Event or help organize an event within your community. Brainstorm ways to celebrate involvement and increase engagement around this important issue. The sky is the limit in terms of what you might plan or do to build awareness through your library to the community!

# Getting Started



## 1. Community Outreach & Gathering Information (30 mins)

2. Below are some suggested ideas for reaching out around this important topic. Do what you can! We know you are busy, caring people doing many things for your library and community, so even it's just calling one of these stakeholders that could be a great partner or source of information to share in your presentation. Every bit of outreach is valuable and can potentially contribute to building a healthier community. We value you and your time - thank you for the role you are playing in empowering others to safely return and dispose of unused or unwanted medications.

### Presentation Preparation Check-List:

#### a) People & Places to Contact

- ☐ **State Public Health Department or Coordinator around safe medication return (if one exists)** - Learn what Programs and resources are available near you.
- ☐ **Local Pharmacy/Pharmacist** - Ask the pharmacist or pharmacy what resources are available around medication return. Invite the pharmacist to attend or partner with you on the presentation if interested.
- ☐ **Local Law Enforcement Office** - Ask about upcoming events and involvement in drug take back. Invite a representative to attend and answer questions at your presentation.
- ☐ **Schools** - Invite teachers, student leaders, and students to attend your presentation. Offer to drop by a nearby school to meet with a smaller group if your time allows around this important topic. Encourage student leaders to consider how they might promote safe medication use and appropriate drug disposal among their student body.

- b) **Open up ‘National Drug Take Back PowerPoint Slides Template’ and fill-in slides needing State and community specific information.** This is optional but recommended in order to better connect with your audience and community. The slides which need further information are: 6, 12, 13, and 15. There are suggestions for where to locate the needed information in the slide template (example below). Please Note: If you decide not to fill in the optional slides remove these before giving your presentation.

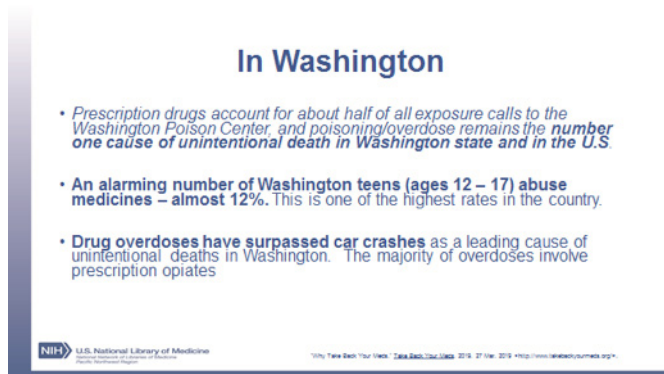
**For example, in slide 6 from the presentation shown below:**



We recommend including statistics relevant to your State around prescription drug misuse, accidental poisonings with medications, etc. Suggestions for possible resources to find statistics applicable to your State:

- NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse  
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state>
- Search for “Poison Center” and your State
- Search for “Public Health Department” and your State

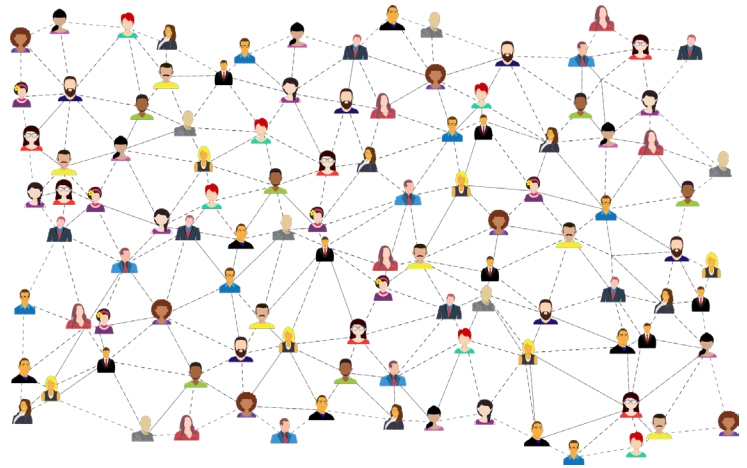
**For example, shown below is a sample from Washington State:**



# Empower Your Community

## 3. Library Presentation & Discussion with Community (45 mins)

Give a presentation around the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to your local community at the library. If possible plan the presentation in conjunction with an upcoming Take Back Day or collection event. Invite members of the community, sheriff's office, pharmacists, students and others. Slides are included for use with an accompanying script and handouts. As previously described, there are a few optional slides with pieces for you to fill in with information relevant to your location and community.



**Plan a Date for Your Presentation:** Pick a date that is before an upcoming local drug take back day or event if possible. Invite members of your local community using the included promotional pieces. Reserve a space in your library for 1 hour where a PowerPoint presentation can be projected. Allow for the presentation to take about 35-40 minutes - this will leave time for questions and potential stakeholders from the community to participate (pharmacist, law enforcement, Safe Medication Program Coordinator, others).

### **Give the Presentation Using Provided Slides/Script/Handouts:**

Give the presentation using the attached slides and script. Distribute Handout 1, 2, 3, and 4 as indicated in the slides. Allow a chance for discussion and questions. When about 10 minutes remain, invite your audience to complete the included survey. The following are the handouts and survey to accompany your presentation.

**Handout 1:** EPA How to Dispose of Medicines Properly

**Handout 2:** FDA Drug Disposal in Household Trash

**Handout 3:** FDA List of Medicines Recommended for Disposal by Flushing

**Handout 4:** NeedyMeds BeMedWise Prescription Medication Safe Use Tips

**Survey**



# Celebrate Your Community

## 4. Plan or Promote an Action Step

Promote an upcoming Take Back Event or a local Safe Medication Take Back Program within your State or community. Plan a way to recognize those who participate in a Take Back Event or help organize an event within your community. Brainstorm ways to celebrate involvement and increase engagement around this important issue. The sky is the limit in terms of what you might plan or do to build awareness through your library to the community!



### Here are a few ideas to start the brainstorming:

- ☐ Promote an upcoming event in your community during the National Prescription Drug Back presentation at your library. Share a handout, invite a representative from that group/organization to attend.
- ☐ Create stickers to hand out at the drug collection site to community members as a “thank you” or way of celebrating those who participate.
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- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

We want to hear about your exciting work to facilitate learning, awareness, and empowerment around safe medication return & practices. Please let us know what you are up to so we may share and equip others at: [nnlm@uw.edu](mailto:nnlm@uw.edu)

**On behalf of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Thank you for all your work to Build Healthy Communities!**

# Survey

## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: Let's Build Healthy Communities Together

Thank you for your time to give us feedback. We value your input.

**Please circle “yes” or “no” for the following questions.**

1. You learned something new that is helpful.

**Yes    No**

2. You feel more confident about what you just learned.

**Yes    No**

3. You intend to apply what you just learned.

**Yes    No**

4. You are more aware of applicable resources and services provided by the library.

**Yes    No**

**We would appreciate your comments for the following questions.**

5. What did you like most about the program?

6. What could the library do to better assist you in learning more?



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