



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Carleigh Olson, MPH, CHES
Community Health Educator
715-839-4725
Carleigh.Olson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Contact:

Joe Luginbill
Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Vice Chair
715-895-8484
joe@luginbillfoundation.org

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Safe Use. Safe Storage. Safe Disposal.

Eau Claire, WI, April, 27, 2017 – When was the last time you cleaned out your medicine cabinet? If you can't remember the last time you did this or if you've NEVER done this before, now is the time to get rid of expired and unused prescription medications.

Instead of flushing or throwing them away, properly dispose of them on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The 1-day Take-back event will be held on April 29th from 10am to 2pm at Marshfield Clinic – Eau Claire Center (2116 Craig Road, Entrance B).



Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high and continue to rise. Unused medications left in your cabinet have the potential to fall into the hands of those who shouldn't be using them. This could lead to drug abuse or accidental poisoning. "This event is critical because it helps raise awareness about opioid abuse and provides a way for communities to address this issue at the local level," says Joe Luginbill, with the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention.

In Eau Claire County, nearly 200 high school youth will misuse prescription drugs this month, and 1 in 4 high schoolers tell us it is easy to get prescription medications. Most youth that are misusing medications say either a friend gave it to them, or they got them from their own home, a friend's home, or a grandparent's home **without permission**. "When people take the time to properly dispose of the medications they no longer need, the entire community benefits, especially children," says Luginbill.

The goal of Take- Back Day is to provide a safe, easy and responsible way to dispose of medication. The National Take -Back event is hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and is coordinated locally by the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and Marshfield Clinic.

Help make prescription drugs less available to be misused by disposing of them properly! For more information about what will be accepted at the Drug Take Back Day visit: www.getinvolvedasap.org or www.doseofreality.org.

#####