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Drug Enforcement Administration to Sponsor National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day  
September 29

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday September 29, 2012. This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted or unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

This event addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that sit in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, especially in Oklahoma with 77% of drug overdose deaths coming from prescription medication. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Since the Take-Back Program started in 2010, the DEA and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed over 1.5 million pounds (774 tons) of medication from circulation.

DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart spoke about this program. "Our take-back events highlight the problems related to prescription drug abuse and give our citizens an opportunity to contribute to the solution. These events are only made possible through the dedicated work and commitment of our state, federal, local, and tribal partners and DEA thanks each and every one of them for their efforts on behalf of the American people."

Drop boxes are open year round as well, so the public doesn't have to wait for a National Prescription Take-Back Day to dispose of old medication. Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator in Clinton serves a nine county region including Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Kiowa, Roger Mills, and Washita Counties. Currently Roger Mills County has one drop box which is located at the Roger Mills County Sheriff's Office in Cheyenne.

For more information on the prescription drug drop boxes or to find a drop box near you go to [www.ok.gov/obnnd](http://www.ok.gov/obnnd) or for more information on the appropriate disposal of prescription drugs or other substance abuse prevention strategies please contact Red Rock RPC Prevention Educator, Rob Bennett at 580-323-6021 X2284.