

BJA Announces Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has announced a Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 25, 2010. The "Take-Back" initiative is designed to prevent increased prescription drug abuse and theft. On September 25, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will collect potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs nationwide; drugs collected will then be taken to destruction sites.

"Prescription drug abuse and diversion—often facilitated by 'left-over' prescriptions being stored in our own homes—is having a devastating effect on our families and on our communities," said BJA's Acting Director, James H. Burch, II. "We strongly encourage all of BJA's state, local and tribal partners to help spread the word and to participate in DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back campaign on September 25. The safe and legal disposal of prescription drugs through this effort could make a substantial impact on prescription drug abuse and will result in safer communities."

According to the DEA, one in seven teens admits to abusing prescription drugs to get high in the past year; 56 percent of teens believe that prescription drugs are easier to obtain than illicit drugs; and a nationwide survey reported that, in 2008, 6.2 million Americans, age 12 and older, abused prescription drugs for nonmedical purposes within the past month.

Other participants in the "Take-Back" initiative include the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National District Attorneys Association.

For more information about DEA and the "Take-Back" initiative, visit <http://www.dea.gov/>.