



The Crook County Experience “Reducing the Volume of Pills!”

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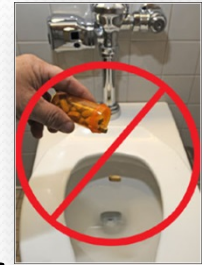


Presentation Goals

- Increase awareness of the problems caused by improperly disposed medications
- Crook County's Story – Crook County Coalition
- What you can do!



Why be concerned?



- Most everyone takes medication (Over-the-counter, prescription, vitamins) at some point in their lifetime
- 20%-60% of prescription medications go unused
- Most of the unused medications end up in landfills or waterways
- 80% of national waterways tested contained levels of pharmaceuticals and personal care products as pollutants (PPCP's) 2002, Geological Survey
- Human and animals effects? Not Regulated....



Why be concerned?

- Unused, unwanted and expired medications can lead to unintentional poisoning of children and pets
 - Over 1 million children in the United States are accidentally poisoned by taking medications each year
 - Our pets – the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handled nearly 50,000 pet poisoning related to prescription and over-the-counter medications in 2012 alone



Why be concerned?



- Abuse of prescription drugs is a fast-growing problem, especially with teens and young adults
 - Prescription drugs are legal and easy to obtain at home
 - Most teens who abuse prescription drugs get them for free from a friend or relative (“Pharming”)
 - Many who abuse these drugs incorrectly think they are safer than illegal drugs





Why it's a Public Health Issue?

- More people die from prescription medications than from heroin and cocaine combined
- Most abusers of prescription drugs get the pills from a friend or relative's medicine cabinet
- Prescription medications are the drug of choice among 12 and 13-year olds
- Preventable poisonings from medications have been rising rapidly, especially among kids and seniors
- Pharms are showing up in the environment

History: 2009 - Present



- Crook County Community Coalition
 - Prescription Drug Task Force
- Daina Vitolins, District Attorney
- Jeff Coffman, Michael Boyd, Prineville PD
- Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Crook County Public Health
- Brenda Comini, Crook County Prevention Office
- Crook County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon State Police

The Crook County Experience!

- Public Awareness Campaign
 - ***Smart Disposal – Prescription for a Health Community***
- Drug Abuse Prevention
- Safe Disposal helps remove the opportunity for children to abuse drugs found in the home
 - Proper disposal instructions - card
- Identity Theft Prevention
- “Take Back” ongoing



It Works!



DEA's 6th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in May of 2015 collected 371 tons of medications

- Oregon – 55 collection sites which resulted in 2.1 tons of prescription medication removed from circulation
- Crook County – From 2009 to 2012 over 2,000 pounds and 9.7 million pills (3 collection sites)

Finally, Why Take Back Your Meds?...It just makes sense.



- Bring the problem out in the open
- Get involved in Drug Take-Back Programs
- Safe Disposal to reduce drug abuse
- Safe Disposal to reduce accidental poisoning
- Safe Disposal to reduce medications in the environment
- Take-back programs are the only secure and environmentally sound way to dispose of leftover and expired medications

Questions?



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