

Prescription Drug Drop-Off Boxes Help Hunterdon County and Prevention Resources Battle Opioid Epidemic

Drug addiction and opioid abuse have been declared a public health emergency and statistics show the numbers of New Jersey addiction deaths keep increasing. In an effort to combat this epidemic, the Hunterdon County Prosecutor and Sheriff Offices, in cooperation with Prevention Resources, recently properly disposed of 1,400 pounds of prescription medications, a six month supply, voluntarily surrendered by residents.

Freeholder Suzanne Lagay said, “Drug drop-off boxes are a safe and secure method for cleaning out medicine cabinets. We are grateful to Prevention Resources for their assistance in the disposal of potentially life-threatening prescription medications and understand this program is crucial to keeping our residents safe. As a Freeholder Board, we support all efforts to reduce drug usage and opioid addiction.”

“Collecting unwanted or unused pharmaceuticals is an important step to reducing access to these potentially lethal drugs,” stated Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred W. Brown. Prescription drugs dropped off at secure collection law enforcement sites ([click here for locations](#)), around the County, are transferred to the Hunterdon County Justice Center, where they are held securely by the Prosecutor’s Office until ready for disposal by incineration.

The US Drug Enforcement Agency has supported the collection of these prescriptions and provides secure transfer of the collected pharmaceuticals to the incineration center.

Government studies have shown any medication left languishing in a medicine cabinet is susceptible to abuse. Flushing medications down the toilet or simply throwing them away poses safety and health hazards as well. Recognizing these dangers, the DEA implemented the Disposal Act in 2010 and established regulations to control the collection, transfer, delivery and destruction of all prescription drugs collected. (Source: DEA website)

Prevention Resources established the very first drop-off box to collect prescription drugs in the State at the Hunterdon County Justice Center in 2011.