

58 pounds of prescription drugs collected in recent Drug Take Back event

Written by Administrator

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The free service on October 26 where the public could bring unwanted medications resulted in a total of 58 pounds being collected at two locations in Scott County.

The Scott County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted the free drop-off service, both at the Sheriff's Department and at Stewart's Pharmacy in downtown Austin from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that Saturday.

The items included pills and liquids. Officials stated that the drop-offs were "...an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription medicines."

The initiative addressed a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines stored in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, according to studies, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses.

Studies also showed that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family members and friends, who take them from home medicine cabinets.

Americans are also becoming more aware that their usual methods of disposing of unused and unwanted drugs pose potential health and safety hazards, especially if drugs are flushed down a toilet or thrown in household trash. Either way allows such substances to enter water supplies.

Anyone who has an unwanted prescription drug can bring it to the free drug drop box, which is located in the Sheriff's Department lobby. The drop box is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.