



PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA BUREAU OF NARCOTICS
AND DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROL

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NARCOTICS BUREAU PROVIDING PERMANENT DROP BOXES FOR SAFE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) is providing permanent drop-off locations for safely disposing of prescription drugs. OBN Spokesman Mark Woodward says his agency recently purchased drug disposal containers that will be installed in every county in Oklahoma. Woodward says properly disposing of expired medication is critical.

"Prescription drug abuse is a growing epidemic in Oklahoma. It's unnecessary and unsafe to leave outdated drugs in the house. Old, expired medications left in the home can be targeted by users. Teenagers also target their parent's current or expired prescription drugs to abuse, trade or sell in order to obtain alcohol, marijuana or other drugs."

---Mark Woodward, OBN Spokesman

Woodward says OBN is working with Police Departments and Sheriff's Departments in all 77 counties to establish permanent locations for the containers. Woodward says it will allow the public to dispose of old medication year-round rather than waiting for an official drug take-back day in their community.

"Take-back days have been very successful, but we don't want people stock-piling expired medication in their home for weeks or month until a take-back program is held in their community."

---Mark Woodward, OBN Spokesman

OBN Director Darrell Weaver says the drug drop containers are vital for preventing the potential disasters caused by keeping unnecessary medications in the home.

"Prescription drug abuse is a "silent cancer" in Oklahoma with 84% of the drug overdose deaths in our state tied to prescription drugs. Simply put, our

citizens are dying and it's unacceptable. In cooperation with our police departments and sheriffs' offices around the state, we will place secure metal containers in strategic locations which will provide a consistent, safe disposal point for our citizens to take unwanted prescriptions out of their cabinets and properly discard them which means they will not be available for diverted use. This statewide program is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation and we believe it has the potential to have a significant impact on this troubling problem. If we save one citizen's life then the effort will be worth it."

---R. Darrell Weaver, OBN Director

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics has a list of the pharmaceutical container locations on its web site at www.ok.gov/obnidd Woodward says the list will be continually updated as the permanent locations are established over the next few weeks.



One of the 100 drug disposal boxes being installed at locations in all 77 counties in Oklahoma