

CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Anthony F. Colarusso, Jr.
Chief of Police

Press Release

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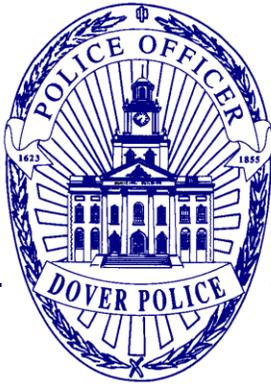
On Saturday, October 22nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Dover Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent prescription drug and opioid abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Medications can be brought to the Dover Police Department at 46 Chestnut Street for disposal. The service is free, anonymous, and no questions will be asked.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse 80% of people who use heroin abused painkillers first. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Surveys show that one in five New Hampshire high school students have used a prescription drug that was not prescribed to them.

“Over half of teens report that prescription drugs are easy or very easy to get” according to Dover Coalition for Youth coordinator, Vicki Hebert. “70% of teens who abuse prescription drugs obtained the medications from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. We are holding this event to allow community members to dispose of their medications and remove the source of temptation from their home.”

Dover has participated in the take back initiative since the fall of 2010 hosting at least one event a year. During the last 5 years Dover has collected over 1,800 pounds prescription drugs.

Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards. The DEA states that unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply.



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If you are unable to attend a collection event during the national take back day visit the Food and Drug Administration website at www.FDA.gov to learn about other recommended disposal methods.

For more information about the take back event visit the DEA website at www.DEA.gov. If you want to learn more about how you can get involved contact the Dover Coalition for Youth at 603.516.3279 or online at www.DoverCoalition.org.