

# DRUG DISPOSAL

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## The DEA Perspective



# Areas of Concern

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- Unused medications, including controlled substances, are contaminating the nation's water system.
- Unintentional pharmaceutical poisonings of children, resulting in morbidity and mortality.
  - Of all unintentional injuries, poisonings accounted for 16.4%. **93.4% were drug related.**

## Areas of Concern Cont.

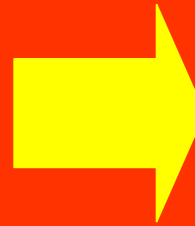
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- ❑ Non-compliance of medicine regimen by the elderly resulting in increased disposal.
- ❑ Unused and expired pharmaceuticals generated by international donations.
- ❑ Lack of safe, secure and reliable disposal system.
- ❑ Emerging problem of “**pharming**”: theft and social use/abuse of pharmaceuticals by teenagers. Who steal controlled substances from medicine cabinets and then bring them to a party to share.

## Changing Landscape of Drugs of Abuse



**Farming**



**Pharming**

# STATE RESPONSE

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## □ “TAKE-BACK” PROGRAMS

- Organized collections of unwanted medications in co-operation with a collection facility or event. Law enforcement must be present if controlled substances are collected.

## □ PILOT AND EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Pharmaceuticals from Households: A Return Mechanism **(PH:ARM)**
- **CLARK COUNTY:** Unwanted Medication Return Program



# DEA “CLOSED SYSTEM OF DISTRUBUTION”

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- ❑ 21 USC 844(a): Illegal to possess a controlled substance unless one is the intended recipient.
- ❑ 21 USC 1301.24: Law enforcement agencies are exempt from the requirement of a DEA registration and thus are able to “receive” controlled substances from private individuals.
- ❑ 21 CFR 1307.21 (b): Procedure for disposing of controlled substances. (**this section may be amended to accommodate future disposal programs**)

# Challenges

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- ❑ To allow the Take-Back of Controlled Substances, Law enforcement agencies or a designated State Agency must take custody of the drugs and follow their procedures for destruction.
- ❑ Problems: Cost, Man-power, Law Enforcement agencies do not have to participate.
- ❑ DEA cannot receive and destroy these drugs.

# Challenges

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- ❑ Reverse Distributors can only receive Controlled substances from DEA Registrants.
- ❑ Can we get the pharmaceutical industry to help with the cost of Take-Back and Drug Abuse Awareness programs?
- ❑ Can we promote the Prevention Aspect to State Governments?



# SOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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- ❑ Additional research should be conducted to evaluate environmental impact/harm from wasted pharmaceuticals and identify those with the highest risk of harm.
- ❑ Continued collaboration with community, law enforcement and drug prevention programs to provide secure collection and transportation disposal process.
- ❑ Lessons learned from Pilot Programs may provide alternatives to flushing of pharmaceuticals into the sewage system.