

PSI's Success in Driving Pharmaceutical Stewardship

Starting the Trend

Take-Back Programs for Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

Early on, PSI recognized the health and environmental risks posed by unwanted medications and convened stakeholders nationally to develop a solution.

Developing Consensus

PSI led two national stakeholder meetings in 2008 that resulted in:

- 1) **Consensus** on the need for a new law and corresponding DEA regulations for controlled substances
- 2) Jointly **framing** the problem as a safety and environmental issue
- 3) **Support** of take-back programs as the preferred solution for safe pharmaceuticals management

Advocating for Policy Changes

Prior to 2010, the Controlled Substances Act stated that only law enforcement officials could collect controlled substances such as Vicodin, Oxycontin,

Percocet, and Adderall, which often left dangerous prescription drugs in residents' homes.

2010: PSI submits comments on the Controlled Substances Act



2010: Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act is passed

2011: PSI advocates for a DEA rule that expands take-back options



2014: New altered DEA regulations go into effect

Writing Model Legislation

PSI developed *model legislation* for pharmaceutical stewardship that became the basis for several pharmaceutical take-back bills.

Educating Stakeholders to Take Action

PSI provides resources on effective take-backs and EPR legislation, including:

Safe Medication Disposal

[*Proper Medicine Disposal Fact Sheet*](#)

[*Best Practices Guide for Voluntary Take-Back Initiatives*](#)

[*Informational Webinars*](#)

Producer Responsibility

[*Myths and Realities Fact Sheet*](#)

[*Briefing Paper on Risks of Improper Disposal & Role of Take-Back Programs*](#)

[*Product Stewardship Summit*](#)

Why pharmaceuticals?

Public health “epidemic”

Prescription drug overdose deaths in the United States have risen sharply since 1999. The “epidemic” of prescription drug abuse is responsible for more than 120 deaths every day and another 6,748 hospitalizations. Lacking safe and convenient options for disposal, residents often store leftover drugs in medicine cabinets, where they remain accessible for unintentional use and abuse.

Toxins in the environment

Leftover pharmaceuticals that are flushed down toilets or thrown in the trash pose serious consequences. Trace amounts of prescription drugs have been found in 80% of US waterways. Pharmaceutical waste run-off has been shown to adversely affect marine life, with growing evidence of damage to neurological and reproductive systems.

