

Montcalm Prevention Collaborative

July 2020



Montcalm Prevention
COLLABORATIVE

Medication Disposal and Prescription Drug Work Team

Helping to protect our futures.

WHO WE ARE

Since 2010, we have been providing information on how to properly store and dispose of medications to ensure a positive impact on the health of our family, neighbors, community, and our environment.

Our focus is on preventing accidental ingestion, environmental protection, disposal of old and/or unused medications and preventing the abuse of prescription drugs.

WHAT WE DO

We actively support “Best Practices” for health care providers and advocate for preventative measures to prevent Prescription Drug Abuse.

Some of our accomplishments and activities include:

- Installing 5 medication drop boxes in Montcalm County
- Hosting a number of special medication drop-off events each year
- Collecting over 4,000 pounds of medications to date
- Collaborating with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and Spectrum Health to offer free sharps disposals to residents.



OUR PARTNERS

Carson City Police Department
Cherry Health Promotion
Great Start Collaborative
Greenville Area Community Foundation

Greenville Department of Public Safety
Lakeview Police Department
Mid-Michigan District Health Department
Montcalm Care Network

Montcalm County Sheriff Department
Spectrum Health-United Hospital

IMPORTANCE OF MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Prescription drug abuse continues to grow at an alarming rate. The problem often starts at home, where people begin abusing medication from their own medicine cabinet. Some people experiment with prescription drugs because they think they will have more fun, lose weight, fit in, or study more effectively. Others think prescription drugs are safer and less addictive than street drugs, but that is just not so.

ACCIDENTAL INGESTION

Americans spend \$200 billion annually on prescription drugs. Many of these drugs are kept in unlocked medicine cabinets, making them easily accessible to those whom they were not intended, including children. Thousands of young children wind up in the emergency room each year because they took medications while their caregiver was not looking.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

Putting medication in the trash is not a good idea because they can seep out of their containers and contaminate the soil. Flushing medication down the toilet or sink can lead to contamination of the water supply, causing illness to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife.

According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), pharmaceuticals have been detected in surface, ground water and municipal water systems. In fact, 80% of sampled Michigan streams contained detectable levels of Prozac, heart medications, antibiotics, and more.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ABUSED MOST OFTEN

- Opioids: Examples include Oxycontin and Vicodin.
- Central nervous system depressants: Examples include Xanax and Valium
- Stimulants: Examples include Concerta and Adderall.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As our funding comes to an end September 30, 2020, our progress and positive results in the community also run the risk of disappearing. We need to engage new supporters to ensure the continuation of our effective prevention curriculum and youth leadership initiatives. Help us keep the momentum going by becoming involved in one of the following ways:

✓ **Become a supporting member:** Donate money or supplies, and/or attend our events. You are welcome to attend our meetings to stay up-to-date on what's happening with the Collaborative.

✓ **Become a voting member:** Join the Collaborative and help us move or work forward by serving on one of our committees and/or providing in-kind services.

✓ **Become a collaborator:** Spread the word about our work and how people can connect with us.

For more information, contact Jodie Faber, Prevention Coordinator at coordinator@montcalmprevention.org or visit montcalmprevention.org.