

# Medication Disposal and Prescription Drug Team

July 2021



Montcalm Prevention  
COLLABORATIVE

## 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

Some of our accomplishments and activities include:

- Installing 5 permanent medication drop boxes in law enforcement agencies throughout Montcalm County
- Hosting a number of special medication drop-off events each year
- Collecting over 10,000 pounds of medications to date
- Collaborating with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and Spectrum Health to offer free sharps disposals to residents.
- Distributed over 500 medication disposal bags to the community



Also, we actively support “Best Practices” for health care providers and advocate for preventative measures to prevent Prescription Drug Use Disorder. The problem often starts at home, such as using a prescription pain drug for too long. Also, some people may experiment with prescription drugs because they think they will have more fun, lose weight, fit in, or study more effectively. Still others may think prescription drugs are safer and less addictive than street drugs, but that’s just not so.

### OUR PARTNERS

Carson City Police Dept.  
Montcalm Area ISD  
Greenville Area Community  
Foundation

Lakeview Police Dept.  
Montcalm County Sheriff  
Greenville Department of  
Public Safety

Michigan State Police  
Montcalm Care Network  
Mid-Michigan District Health  
Department

## ***Importance of Medication Disposal***

### **Did you know about 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 water, ground water, and municipal water systems. In fact, 80% of sampled Michigan streams contained detectable levels of Prozac, heart medications, antibiotics, and more.

### **Want to help?**

If you would like to be part of the solution to reducing problems related to prescription drug use in Montcalm County, here are three suggestions on how you can make a difference. Or, give us a call to explore other options.



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

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

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

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***For more information, contact Jodie Faber, Prevention Coordinator at – [coordinator@MontcalmPrevention.org](mailto:coordinator@MontcalmPrevention.org) or visit – [www.MontcalmPrevention.org](http://www.MontcalmPrevention.org)***