

# Policy Briefing: Drug Take-Back Ordinance

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WASHINGTON COUNTY  
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Department of Health and Human Services

# Reasons for a Drug Take-Back Ordinance

- ▶ Unused prescription drugs can lead to abuse and accidental poisonings.
- ▶ Flushing pharmaceuticals can contaminate our waterways and negatively affect our aquatic ecosystems.
- ▶ Limited places for drug disposal in Washington County.

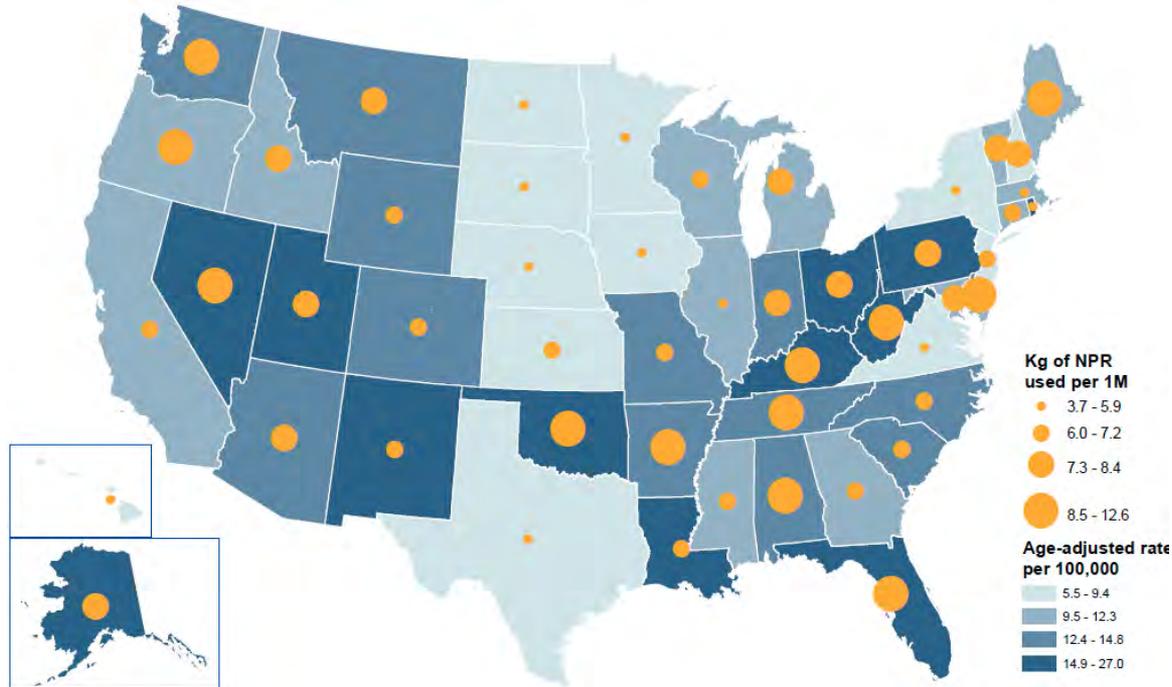


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# Drug Overdose Death Rate, 2008

## Opioid Pain Reliever Sales Rate, 2010



Source: National Vital Statistics System, 2008; Automated Reports Consolidated Orders System, 2010.



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# Prescription Statistics (2015)

- ▶ Over 1.5 million opioid prescriptions were filled in the Portland metro area. That's enough for nearly every person to get one.
- ▶ 413,000 opioid prescriptions were filled in Washington County, with an average of 3.3 prescriptions per patient.



# Additional Statistics

- ▶ Overdose Deaths:
  - In 2017, 193 people died from an opioid overdose (tri-county region).
- ▶ Ambulance Calls:
  - Average of 2.7 overdoses a week from 9/2017- 9/2018 (Washington County).
- ▶ ED/Urgent Care OD-Related Visits:
  - 302 visits in 2017 (Washington County)
  - Increased visits in 2017 and 2018
- ▶ Four out of five heroin users were hooked on prescription opioids before ever using heroin.



# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Model

- ▶ The EPR model makes the manufacturer responsible for the lifecycle of the product.
  - Similar to unused paint.
- ▶ Estimated cost to pharmaceutical companies:
  - One cent for every ten dollars of prescription (0.1% of sales).
- ▶ Put before Supreme Court in 2015 but Court refused to hear.



# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Model

- ▶ EPR ordinances
  - Alameda County's EPR model (2012) was the first drug take-back ordinance.
  - Adopted by at least five counties in Washington, 12 in California, and one in Illinois.
- ▶ Increased medication collection
  - San Francisco's pharmacies collected 80,437 pounds of medications, compared to law enforcement collecting 4,095 pounds prior to the EPR ordinance in the same time span.



# HHS Ordinance Recommendations

- ▶ Establish an ordinance based on Alameda County's EPR model that supports Oregon statewide drug take-back HB 2645A.
- ▶ Pharmaceutical producers will design, manage, collect and fund take-back programs.
- ▶ Pharmaceutical producers will provide a minimum number of collection sites to residents.
- ▶ Washington County Public Health will provide oversight.



# HHS Ordinance Recommendations

- ▶ Pharmacy and law enforcement involvement is voluntary.
- ▶ Pharmaceutical producers are required to offer education and outreach.
- ▶ The County would recommend pharmacies host drop boxes as a public service and collaborate with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy.



# Partner Support

“As a water resources management utility focused on the protection of public health and the environment, our industry strongly supports drug take-back programs.”

—*Mark Jockers*  
*Government and Public Affairs Manager*  
*Clean Water Services*



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# Request for Support

- ▶ What questions does PHAC have about this potential local ordinance?
- ▶ What community partners are important to support this work?
- ▶ Upcoming BOC meetings March 19 & April 2
- ▶ PHAC letter of support



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