



Permanent Medication Collection Boxes in Kalamazoo County www.redmedbox.com

The Problem

Until recently, there have been few safe and convenient ways for consumers to dispose of unused prescription drugs.

"The abuse of prescription drugs is our nation's fastest-growing drug problem," said Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske. In fact, right here in Kalamazoo County more middle school students reported abusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days than reported using marijuana or alcohol (2010 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey). Youth report that they get these drugs from the family medicine cabinet and from their friends.

In addition, twenty to sixty percent of prescription medications go unused and are eventually disposed. Several studies, including a 2002 analysis by the US Geological Survey of 139 streams across 30 states found that 80 percent of waterways tested had measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones.

The Solution

The Red Med Box is a joint effort between law enforcement, Kalamazoo Household Hazardous Waste Center, Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force, and other key community partners to provide residents with safe, convenient access to proper medicine disposal.

Disposing of your medicines at one of these locations will ensure that your unwanted medications will not be stolen, become a threat for abuse and overdoses, and will not enter our environment and contaminate our drinking water.



Find a Red Med Box at the following convenient locations:

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
150 E. Crosstown Pkwy. Suite A, Kalamazoo
269.337.8101

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office
1500 Lamont Ave., Kalamazoo
269.383.8821

Kalamazoo Township Police Department
1720 Riverview Dr., Kalamazoo
269.343.0551

Portage Police Department
7810 Shaver Rd., Portage
269.329.4587

Red Med Box WILL Accept:

- Expired & Unused Medications
Over-the-Counter Medications
Medication Samples
Pet Medications
Medicated Ointment/Lotion/Drops
Unopened Epi-Pens
Liquid Medications

Red Med Box WILL NOT Accept:

- Needles/Lancets/Syringes
Thermometers
IV Bags
Inhalers
Bloody or Infectious Waste
Hydrogen Peroxide
Business Waste (nursing/group home, etc.)
Empty Containers
Personal Care Products (shampoo, etc.)