



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System — Serving New Jersey Since 1983

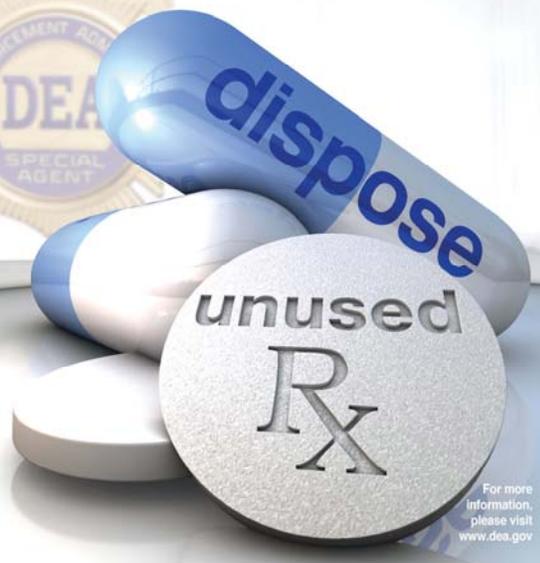
## NEWS RELEASE

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## Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal  
Saturday, April 28th



### National Rx Take-Back Event Saturday, April 28, 2012

Steven Marcus, Executive and Medical Director,  
Dr. Bruce Ruck, Director, Drug Information and Professional Education  
New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

*Available for Interviews*

**NEWARK, N.J. — April 17, 2012 —** Why should I get rid of medication I am no longer using?

Infants, teens and adults can gain access to unused and/or expired medications which can lead to intentional and unintentional exposures. In 2011, the NJ Poison Experts answered nearly 66,000 calls for assistance from both the public and health care professionals around the state. Of these calls, 25,000 involved the ingestion/exposure of one or more medications. Approximately 4,000 calls were related to medications being used in suicide attempts; 800 involved attempts by teenagers. In addition, almost 2,000 calls were related to abuse or misuse of medications. The remainder of calls involved unintentional ingestions/exposures; the majority of which occurred in children below the age of 5.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is responding to our nation's prescription drug (Rx) crisis by partnering with local law enforcement agencies for another National Take Back Day. As the data shows, prescription and over-the counter (OTC) medications are used every day by teens and adults to get high. This take back event will help keep dangerous, addictive drugs off the street and give the public the opportunity to help prevent pill abuse in their communities.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012. Contact the New Jersey Poison Experts at 1-800-222-1222 for a local drop-off site near you. All sites will operate from 10 AM to 2 PM.

The NJ Poison Experts encourage all NJ residents to participate on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>! Help make a difference in your community by safely disposing of your unused and/or expired prescription and OTC medications. In turn, your efforts will help decrease the number of teens using these medications to get high, as well as, decrease the number of toddlers who ingest medications used for diabetes, blood pressure, heart, etc. Remind the seniors in your lives to do the same.

If you have any questions regarding the National Take-Back event or if you suspect a poisoning and are seeking treatment advice, **CALL THE NJ POISON EXPERTS at 1-800-222-1222**. Help is available in over 150 languages; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Program the Poison Help line 1-800-222-1222 into your cell phone and post it near your home and office phones too.

Help us spread the word! Forward this release to family, friends, coworkers, local radio and TV stations, magazines, and newspapers. Don't forget about Facebook and Twitter. If you haven't done so already, like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/njpies](http://www.facebook.com/njpies)) and follow us on Twitter ([@NJPoisonCenter](https://twitter.com/NJPoisonCenter)) for poison prevention tips, safety updates and news. We appreciate all of your help!

***Remember, Help Is Just a Phone Call Away!  
Real People. Real Answers.***

### **Call to Action – Help is Just a Phone Call Away**

NJPIES leaders urge medical professionals, parents, educators, caregivers and the general public to call the toll-free poison center hot line, 800-222-1222, with any poison related question as well as for non-emergency questions regarding medications, household products, plants, environmental contaminants, or other poisons. The hotline is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. You may also chat or text in using our website, [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org). **Real People. Real Answers.**

The NJ poison experts recommend putting the number in all family cell phones as well as programming it as a speed dial number on landlines (home and office). In addition, prominently post the number near all phones in the home and office.

Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/njpies](http://www.facebook.com/njpies)) and Twitter ([@NJPoisonCenter](https://twitter.com/NJPoisonCenter)) for breaking news, safety tips, trivia questions, etc.

### **About NJPIES**

As New Jersey's only poison control center, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System provides information on poison prevention and treatments. Chartered in 1983, NJPIES provides free consultation through telephone hot line services and the Web. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer confidential advice regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. These specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A division of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located on the school's Newark campus.

New Jersey residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies, and those with any drug information questions, should call the toll-free hot line, **800-222-1222**, any time. The hearing impaired may call **973-926-8008**. For more information, visit [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org) or call **973-972-9280**.

### **About UMDNJ**

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is the nation's largest freestanding public health sciences university, with more than 5,500 students attending. The state's three medical schools, a dental school, a graduate school of biomedical sciences, a school of health-related professions, a school of nursing and a school of public health are housed on five campuses — Newark, New Brunswick/Piscataway, Scotch Plains, Camden and Stratford. Annually, there are more than 2 million patient visits at UMDNJ facilities and faculty practices at the campuses. UMDNJ operates University Hospital, a level I trauma center in Newark, and University Behavioral HealthCare, a mental health and addiction services network.

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