

Safe Storage and Disposal of Medications

DISPOSE OF THEM WHEN THEY ARE EXPIRED, UNUSED, UNWANTED, OR DAMAGED

Why is Safe Storage and Disposal Important?

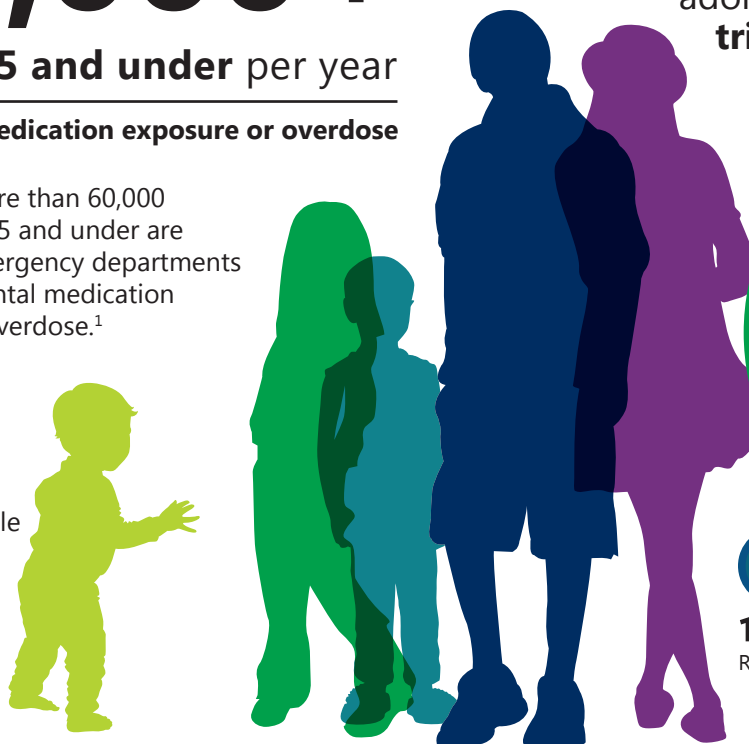
60,000+

children **5 and under** per year

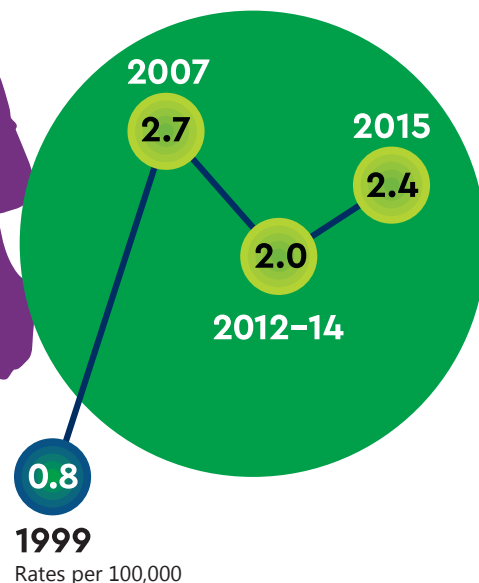
accidental medication exposure or overdose

Each year, more than 60,000 children ages 5 and under are treated in emergency departments due to accidental medication exposure or overdose.¹

95% of these visits are because a child got into medicines while the parent or caregiver was not looking.¹



The drug overdose death rate involving opioids for adolescents aged 15–19 **tripled** from **1999** to **2015**.²



Safe Storage

Put Your Medicines Up and Away and Out of Sight

- ✓ Put medicines up and away and out of children's reach and sight.
- ✓ Put medicines away every time.
- ✓ Make sure the safety cap is locked.
- ✓ Teach your children and teens about medicine safety.

For more information on safe storage, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/features/medicationstorage/index.html> or <https://www.upandaway.org/>



How to Safely Dispose of Medications

1st
choice

Drug take back location

As soon as you can, take your medicine to a DRUG TAKE BACK location

Is there a DRUG TAKE BACK near you?

Check these websites:

Michigan Households: Drug Take Back Location Map

(<https://michigan-open.org/safe-opioid-disposal/disposal-map/>)

U.S. DEA Location Search Tool

(<https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1>)

OR visit your local drugstore or police station for information

2nd
choice

Household Disposal

Some drugs can go in the trash

Read how to first prepare them

(<https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm#household>)

1. Remove the medication from its original container.
2. Mix with dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds (don't crush tablets or capsules).
3. Seal the mixture in a disposable container with a lid or a sealable bag.
4. Hide or remove personal information on the empty container label (RX number, name, etc. by covering it with permanent marker or by scratching it off).
5. Throw away the sealed container with the drug mixture.
6. Recycle the empty drug container.
[Read handling instructions on the labeling of inhalers and aerosol products because they could be dangerous if punctured or thrown into a fire]

Safe Disposal:

- Protects the earth/people/animals/pets —keeps medications from entering water supply/seeping into the ground, streams, and rivers
- Limits teen/adult misuse of unused medications



References

- 1 MacKay JM, Steel A, Samuel E, Creppy T, Green A. The Rise of Medicine in the Home: Implications for Today's Children. Washinton D.C.: Safe Kids Worldwide; 2016.
- 2 National Center for Health Statistics. Drug Overdose Deaths Among Adolescents Aged 15–19 in the United States: 1999–2015 . Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db282.pdf>.
- 3 EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/>.
- 4 Office of the Commissioner. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/>.
- 5 Safe Disposal. KnowYourOTCS. <https://www.knowyourotcs.org/safe-disposal/>.

