

Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse
Storage and Disposal Workgroup
Disposal Resources

G.C. Welham, J.K. Mount, and A.M. Gilson. 2015. "Type and Frequency of Opioid Pain Medications Returned for Disposal." *Drugs—Real World Outcomes*, doi:10.1007/s40801-015-0019-4.

At a 4-hour drug take-back event in Dane County (Madison), Wis., 761 households handed over 1,500 pounds of medicine, including 160 pounds of controlled substances. In opioid prescriptions returned for disposal, more than 60 percent of the dispensed amount remained unused. Short-acting combination opioids accounted for more than 80 percent of returned prescriptions. Days of supply dispensed was the strongest predictor of days of supply remaining, regardless of other drug characteristics. Thus, disposal programs appear to be effective at removing unused opiates from patients' homes.

Read more:

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs40801-015-0019-4>

National Safety Council Poll: Nearly 70 Percent of Prescription Painkiller Users Do Not Know Sharing Medication Is a Felony National Safety Council March 12, 2015

According to a nationwide National Safety Council survey, few American adults know how addictive prescription pain relievers are. Ninety percent of those who used opioid pain relievers were not concerned with addiction, even though many had risk factors that increased their likelihood of becoming abusers. Nearly 70 percent of respondents did not know it was a felony in most states to share prescription pain relievers with friends or family. Forty-two percent thought sharing their prescription pain relievers was appropriate or had few or no negative consequences.

Read more:

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/about/Pages/NSC-Poll-Prescription-Painkiller-Sharing.aspx>

Download the full report:

<http://www.nsc.org/NewsDocuments/031115-Public-Opinion-Poll.pdf>