

Summary of Priority Area: Prescription Medication Disposal

The study addresses the need to ensure that medication is destroyed properly and safely in order to reduce the amount that is available to be abused. It addressed the needs of Wisconsin, but many of these ideas can be easily transferred to suit the needs of Connecticut.

Cost Effective Medication Disposal System:

In Wisconsin, there was no system in place to destroy medication in state. All of the medication was shipped out of state, resulting in high costs that most communities or the state was willing to support. The result: Fewer collection times and fewer scheduled collection events. With these fewer times medication was either thrown away in general garbage or flushed down the toilet leading to pollution and poisoned waters.

Reducing Costs:

The Study recommended several solutions to mitigate the overall costs associated with the program. They recommended having these drives funded by private health insurance companies, pharmaceutical corporations etc. The study argues that costs will go down as the rates of crime go down.

Recommendations:

The study lists the following recommendations based on its findings

1. Establish a coordinated statewide system for providing secure, convenient disposal of consumer medications from households.
2. Integrate medication collection with the Wisconsin Drug Repository(Connecticut equivalent for this state)
3. Create an infrastructure for the destruction of drugs in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.
4. Identify the causes for prescription drug waste and implement proactive solutions.- i.e. Public Education
5. Identify a sustainable means for funding collection and disposal in cooperation with key stakeholders including pharmaceutical producers, local governments, law enforcement, waste management companies, health care providers, pharmacies and consumers.
6. Establish a system for effective disposal of consumer medications in all care programs and facilities which complies with state and federal waste management laws
7. Establish regulations that would permit registered nurses employed by home health agencies and hospices to transport unused medications, including controlled substances, to designated drug drop off and disposal facilities, so that when patient medications are no longer needed, such nurses are allowed by law to assist in their safe destruction.