



## Prescription Drug Abuse

### What's going on?

- Since 2000, over 650 deaths in our area have been caused by overdosing and drug poisoning
- The number of people in the region being treated for prescription drug addiction has risen from approximately 500 in 2003 to over 1525 in 2010
- In 2009, over 1000 people were treated in area hospitals for prescription drug overdoses



### What's causing the increase?

- Easy access to prescription drugs
- A misconception that prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs
- People are sharing drugs and taking drugs that were not prescribed for them

### What's being done?

- Community education and outreach programs are increasing, including presentations to community groups and a media campaign
- Expired and unwanted prescription drugs are being collected; local efforts are contributing to over 300 tons that are being collected nationally

### What can you do?

- **Monitor and secure your prescription drugs**
  - Monitor quantities and control access
  - Secure them in a locked cabinet or other safe place.
  - Keep track of refills
- **If it wasn't prescribed for you, don't use it!**
- **Don't share prescription drugs**
- **Help Spread the Word!**
  - Talk to teens about the dangers of prescription drugs
  - Report suspicious activity immediately
- **Properly dispose of expired/unwanted prescription drugs**
  - Watch community collection events
  - Use a Prescription & Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-off (POD) Box (locations listed on 2<sup>nd</sup> page)
  - For more information on how to dispose of unused medicines, visit the US Food and Drug Administration website at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) and enter "Safe Disposal of Medicines" in the search box.





**Prescription & Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-Off (POD) Boxes** are a secure, convenient, and environmentally sound option for the disposal of unused and unwanted household medications. Residents can drop off unused or unwanted medications at any time throughout the year. All medications are handled according to the law enforcement agency's evidence protocols until take for final destruction in accordance with state and federal laws. There are currently 13 POD Drop Box locations in northern Michigan:

**Emmet County :**

City of Petoskey Department of Public Safety Front Lobby of City Hall 101 East Lake St. Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 347-2500	City of Petoskey Department of Public Safety Public Safety Station West (Bay Harbor) 3625 Charlevoix Ave. Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 347-4642	Emmet County Sheriff's Office Jeffery P. Bodzick Administrative Office and Correctional Facility (Jail) 450 Bay Street Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 347-2036	Emmet County Sheriff's Office Richard L. Zink Law Enforcement Center Harbor Springs (Road Patrol Building) 3460 M-119 Harbor Springs, MI 49740 (231) 439-8900	Harbor Springs Police Department 170 Zoll Street Harbor Springs, MI 49740 (231) 526-6211	Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Police Department 911 Spring St. Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 242-1574
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**Charlevoix County:**

Boyne City - City Hall 319 North Lake Street Boyne City, MI 49712 (231) 582-6611	Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office Beaver Island 37830 Kings Highway Beaver Island, MI 49782 (231) 448-2700	Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office Jail Entrance 1000 Grant Street Charlevoix, MI 49720 (231) 547-4461	City of Charlevoix Police Department 210 State St. Charlevoix, MI 49720 (231) 547-3258	City of East Jordan Police Department 326 Main Street East Jordan, MI 49727 (231) 536-2273
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**Antrim County:**

Antrim County Sheriff's Office Administration Office 107 Grove Street Bellaire, MI 49615 (231) 533-8627	Elk Rapids Police Department 321 Bridge Street Elk Rapids, MI 49629 (231) 264-6592
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For more info and additional POD locations, please visit:  
**[www.pillsinthepod.com](http://www.pillsinthepod.com)**

**Items Accepted:**

- Prescription Drugs – Controlled and Non-controlled
- Over-the-counter (OTC) Medicines
- Pet Medicines
- Nutritional Supplements and vitamins

**Items Not Accepted:**

- Needles, Lancets, or Pen Needles (ANY Sharps)
- Aerosol Cans
- Bloody or Infectious Waste
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Thermometers
- IV Bags

**Campaign Area and Local Providers**

Catholic Human Services  
Health Department of Northwest Michigan  
Wexford/Missaukee Intermediate School District



**For more information, contact:**

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