



Cochise County Health and Social Services

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

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Director

***** MEDIA RELEASE *****

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Safe, Secure and Convenient Drug Disposal Available Throughout Cochise County*

Cochise Health and Social Services would like to remind residents of a valuable service available to all: no-cost prescription drug disposal at twelve convenient sites throughout the county. Deputy Director Carrie Langley encourages everyone to use this service to safely dispose of potentially dangerous unused household medications absolutely free of charge. According to Ms. Langley, "This program helps prevent diversion, abuse, or overdose by children and adults from prescription medications, and can also protect the environment and water supply by providing a convenient and safe method of disposal."

Prescription drug abuse is a public health crisis that impacts our nation and Cochise County. As an example, the United States makes up 4.6% of the world's population, but consumes 80% of global prescriptions of opioid pain killers such as Vicodin and OxyContin. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, Cochise County ranks in the middle of Arizona counties experiencing opioid overdose. Between 2011 and 2015, Cochise County experienced an average of 10 opioid-related deaths every year.



One death by prescription drug overdose is one death too many. Secure disposal of unused drugs can reduce the number of such deaths. Medication take-back units in Cochise County can be found at:

- Fry Fire Department - 4817 S. Apache Ave., Sierra Vista
- Tombstone Fire Department - 315 E. Fremont St., Tombstone
- Huachuca City Fire Department - 500 N. Gonzales Blvd., Huachuca City
- Bisbee Police Department - 1 W. Highway 92, Bisbee
- Douglas Fire Department - 1400 E. 10th St., Douglas
- Sunsites Fire Department - 105 Tracy Rd., Pearce
- Elfrida Fire Department - 10293 N. Central Hwy, Elfrida
- Willcox Police Department - 320 Rex Allen Dr., Willcox
- Northern Cochise Community Hospital - 901 W. Rex Allen Dr., Willcox
- Whetstone Fire Department - 2422 N. Firehouse Ln., Huachuca City
- Benson Hospital - 450 S. Ocotillo Ave., Benson
- Palominas Fire Department - 10202 S. Highway 92, Palominas

Bisbee - Main Office
1415 Melody Lane, Building A
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9400
520-432-9480 fax
health@cochise.az.gov

Benson
126 West 5th Street
Benson, Arizona 85602
520-586-8200
520-586-2051 fax

Douglas
1012 North G Avenue
Suite 101
Douglas, Arizona 85607
520-805-5600
520-364-5453 fax

Sierra Vista
4115 East Foothills Drive
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635
520-803-3900
520-459-8195 fax

Willcox
450 South Haskell Avenue
Willcox, Arizona 85643
520-384-7100
520-384-0309 fax

If you take prescription pain killers, talk with your doctor about a pain management plan. If you or a loved one is struggling with opioid or other addiction, talk to your doctor about resources for support and treatment. Discuss your risk of accidental overdose, especially if you take more than one drug, and develop a long-term pain control plan. If you take pain medication to treat a short-term condition, it is also essential to properly discard any unused medication after the need for pain control has passed. The drop box locations are ideal for just this reason.

If you have questions or need additional resources, please contact us at 520-432-9400, or visit <https://www.cochise.az.gov/health-and-social-services/cochise-county-resource-guide> for a valuable resource guide.

About Cochise Health and Social Services

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Cochise Health and Social Services promotes health and quality of life for all Cochise County residents through community partnerships, education, service, and leadership. For more information, including recent media releases, please visit our website at <https://www.cochise.az.gov/health-and-social-services/home>.

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