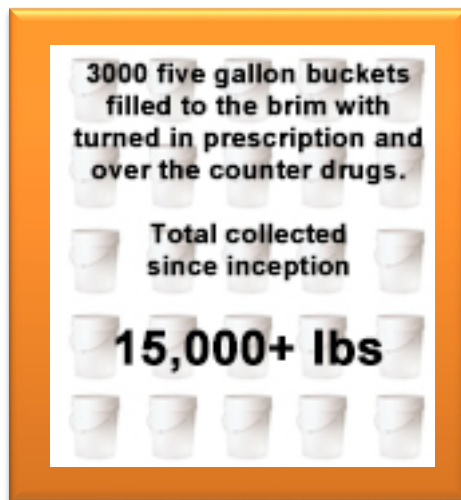


Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout



Background

In May 2009 the Community Services Board (CSB) sought to create a prescription drug take back program during the Annual Substance Abuse Awareness Week. They approached the Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP³) to assist in the initial Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout (OMCC) to be held in October. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 45,000 die daily yearly to unintentional poisoning. And 2.1 million people had an opioid disorder with 42,249 dying from an overdose.

Challenge

The goal was threefold:

- Protect families from accidental in-home poisonings;
- Eliminate a risk of theft from having unwanted, unneeded medications homes
- Ensure the safety of our communities' ground water supplies by disposing of drugs properly

Solution

OP³ arranged a partnership with the **Fairfax County Police** to allow specialized, secured bins (designed and built by **Department of Public Works Environmental Services**) to be placed in four police stations during Substance Abuse Awareness Week. OP³ also marshalled partnerships with pharmacies in **CVS, Giant, Harris Teeter, Rite Aid, Safeway, Shoppers Food & Pharmacy, Walgreens and Wegmans** to facilitate outreach.

Impact

The program so successful it was replicated throughout the state in April 2012. Today's program is run by a partnership of Fairfax County Community Services Board, Police Department, Health Department, Neighborhood & Community Services and OP³. Benefits realized include: through 2018 approximately 15000lbs of prescription drugs returned; knowledge disseminated on proper prescription drug disposal; and a new year-round drug take-back program in Springfield.

Nicole Dornbush, Pharmacy Manager Wegmans

Representatives from community pharmacies across the county, the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, and Fairfax County employees have been working together with the following mission: to find solutions for and educate our residents on how to safely dispose of unwanted medications, comply with environmental safety recommendations, and reduce the chances for these medications to be abused. This project was successful thanks to the different areas of expertise everyone brought to the team.

