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ADMH Encourages People to Take Back Unwanted Prescription Drugs this Saturday, October 28

MONTGOMERY – ADMH is encouraging the public to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day by safely discarding of unwanted and unused prescription drugs at collection sites throughout the state. Take Back Day will be held this Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Local collection sites can be found by visiting https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

This effort represents the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The DEA, as well as state and local law enforcement, collaborate to offer the initiative.

Last April Americans turned in 450 tons (900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 13 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 8.1 million pounds—more than 4,050 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Alabama's youth ages 12 to 17, 18 to 25, and 26 + year-old age groups have all exceeded national average estimates for past year nonmedical use of prescription painkillers and drug availability is a recognized risk factor for adolescent and adult substance abuse. Take Back Day is one way to ensure prescription drugs do not end up in the wrong places. It offers a quick, safe and secure method of disposal.

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RESOURCES

For more information about the National Take Back initiative, visit the DEA's website at https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

For information regarding substance abuse services in the state of Alabama, visit ADMH's website at www.mh.alabama.gov, or call 334-242-3961.