



Media Release

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18,764 LBS. OF MEDICATIONS COLLECTED IN ARKANSAS'S SIXTH PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

On Saturday, April 27, 122 participating Arkansas law enforcement agencies collected more than 9 tons of unwanted and expired medications as part of the sixth U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Prescription Take Back Initiative.

The 18,764 lbs. of medications were the most ever collected in a single Arkansas Take Back event. According to the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, the estimated number of pills collected is 26.1 million.

Through six statewide take back events, Arkansas has collected more than 33 tons of unneeded medications.

"The continued growth and success of our Take Backs reflect the great dedication that exists here in Arkansas to address prescription abuse and protect the environment, and we are very thankful to everyone who takes part in this," State Drug Director Fran Flener said.

The Arkansas National Guard Counterdrug Program and DEA transported the collected medications to the Covanta Tulsa Renewable Energy facility where they were destroyed at no charge as a part of Covanta's Prescription for Safety Program.

Arkansas's participation was planned and coordinated by the DEA, the Office of the Drug Director, the Arkansas Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Arkansas National Guard, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, the Department of Human Services, Arkansas Rotary Clubs, and more than 30 other government agencies, community organizations, and public health agencies. DEA will continue to conduct national take back events every six months until new federal medication disposal regulations are enacted.