

THE BEST PLACE TO GET RID OF MEDICINES

There are now [12 permanent MedDrop sites across Dane County](#) to get rid of unwanted and unused medicines in a safe and environmentally manner. Between July 2012 and May 2013, MedDrop collected 18,870 pounds or 4.4 tons of medications from the MedDrop sites and delivered them to a hazardous waste incinerator in Sauget IL, to ensure complete destruction.

Why Get Rid of Unused Medications

In Dane County, poisoning is the leading cause of injury death and the rates have dramatically increased over the past decade, surpassing motor vehicle crashes. There is also a concern for poisoning related hospital visits. The majority of these poisonings are due to prescription, over-the-counter, and illicit drugs. In addition, there are over three thousand people a year that visit the hospital for abuse and dependence of drugs.

Drug poisoning can occur when consumed by children and others, but unwanted medications are also used deliberately for non-medical reasons. Therefore, it is important to securely store medicines away from family and friends and get rid of expired and unused medicines. MedDrop is a key strategy to reduce access to drugs.

County-Wide Efforts to Reduce Access to Drugs

Safe Communities is leading a county-wide *Drug Poisoning Initiative: Stop the Drug Overdose Epidemic*, which is supported by Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, County Executive Joe Parisi and many other community partners, including Public Health. More information on this important initiative can be found at [Drug Poisoning Prevention from Safe Communities](#).

Other Resources

- [Dane County Drug Poisoning Data](#), PHMDC
- [MedDrop Program](#), Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County
- [Overview of MedDrop Program Presentation](#) (PDF)