

## Safely Dispose of Unwanted Medicine

Drug overdose is the leading cause of unintentional death in Washington State and 63% of these deaths involved prescription-type pain relieving medications. Washington is one of only 16 states in which drug overdoses cause more deaths than traffic accidents. As a way of preventing these unnecessary deaths parents need to keep prescriptions safe by:

- Keep these medicines locked
- Keep track of quantities of these medicines
- Dispose of expired and unused medicines in a safe way - DO NOT FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET

Only two counties in the state - Snohomish and Clark - have medicine return programs that accept controlled substances, such as the opiate-type medicines. Visit [www.medicinereturn.com](http://www.medicinereturn.com) for a complete list of pharmacies and police stations that accepted unused or expired prescriptions.

Washington State recently passed the **911 Good Samaritan Law** which provides legal protection from drug possession charges for “good Samaritans” who seek medical help for someone having a drug overdose as well as the person having an overdose. The law was enacted to increase the likelihood that medical help would be summoned. For more information about the law, go to [www.StopOverdose.org](http://www.StopOverdose.org).