

News Media Release

For Immediate Release

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20th DEA Sponsored Drug Take Back

With opioid overdose deaths increasing during the pandemic, the Pratt Police Department in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration announces its 20th Take Back Day. The Take Back Day is scheduled for April 24th at the Wal Mart Store located at 2003 E. First Street, Pratt KS. At its last Take Back Day in October, DEA collected a record-high amount of expired, unwanted, and unused prescription medications, with the public turning in close to 500 tons of unwanted drugs. Over the 10 year span of Take Back Day, DEA has brought in more than 6,800 tons of prescription drugs. With studies indicating a majority of abused prescription drugs come from family and friends, including from home medicine cabinets, clearing out unused medicine is essential.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The U.S. has seen an increase in overdose deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 83,544 Americans overdosing during the 12 month period ending July 1, 2020, the most ever recorded in a 12 month period. The increase in drug overdose deaths appeared to begin prior to the COVID-19 health emergency, but accelerated significantly during the first months of the pandemic.

The public can drop off potentially dangerous prescription medications or across the counter medications at the local collection site which will adhere to local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations in order to maintain the safety of all participants and local law enforcement.

The Pratt Police Department will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs and non-prescription drugs. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illegal street drugs will not be accepted. We will continue to accept vaping devices and cartridges at our drop off site provided lithium batteries are removed.

To learn more about the event go on-line at www.deatakeback.com, or by calling 800-882-9539 or contact SGT ED Gimpel at the Pratt Police Department, 620-672-5551.

CASE NO: