

Navajo County Drug Project

Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse



A Coalition of Concerned Navajo County Residents Joined Together to:

- EDUCATE the Community on the substance abuse crisis
- REHABILITATE those who have fallen into the addiction
- ENFORCE laws pertaining to the spread of substance abuse in our communities

Press Release/Calendar Item

DATE: Feb 16, 2009
For Immediate Release

Contact: Debe Campbell
navajocountydrugproject@gmail.com

In memory of Tyrell D. Sandefur

Take-Back Event For Prescription, OTC Drugs

Now's the time to clean out the medicine cabinet, gathering any expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs and over the counter (OTC) medicines. A public take-back event offers the opportunity, under Drug Enforcement Administration licensing, to return these dangerous items for proper destruction.

March 6 from 8 am until 3 pm, the public is invited to return these drugs. In cooperation with Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Snowflake-Taylor Police Department and Northern Arizona Academy-Taylor, the Navajo County Drug Project will sponsor this event. The location is at Silver Creek Pharmacy, 660 N. Main, Taylor.

Overdoses and deaths from prescription drug abuse now tops US teen deaths from all other illicit drugs combined. The average first age of teens abusing prescription drugs is 12 years old. And, one in 10 8th graders in Navajo County has abused prescription drugs, according to the 2008 Arizona Youth Survey for Navajo County.

And where are youth getting their prescription drugs? While 24 percent get them from friends, 15 percent get them from the medicine cabinet in their own home. And that's where their friends are getting them, too.

Our community is not immune from this problem. Between November 2009 and February 2010, there were three deaths in south Navajo County involving prescription drugs, according to the Navajo County Medical Examiner. And, on March 6, 2009, Northern Arizona Academy-Taylor lost one of its own 16-year-old shining star students to a prescription drug involved overdose. This event is in memory of Tyrell Sandefur.

When returning your medicines, please remove the labels to prevent identity theft. If you wish to dispose of them at home, do not flush them down the toilet. Crush them into used coffee grounds, used kitty litter or other unpleasant rubbish, bag and toss them into the trash.

For additional information, go to www.navajocountydrugproject.com or contact Klara Everson at NAA Taylor 928-536-4222.

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The Navajo County Drug Project —Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse
P.O. Box 1596, Pinetop, AZ 85935
(928) 368-7519, (928) 358-1645 FAX
navajocountydrugproject@gmail.com www.navajocountydrugproject.com

Mission Statement:

To develop a diverse community representation, coordinate a sustained effort in educating and preventing the substance abuse through a plan for change in local social norms through prevention, treatment and vigorous enforcement of existing laws.