



## **DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative Arkansas Success**

- As part of the National Drug Control Strategy, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has called for an increase of prescription drug return and disposal programs as a means to curbing prescription drug abuse.
- In early 2010, a coalition led by State Drug Director Fran Flener, Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, and both Arkansas Districts of the U.S. Attorney's Office, launched an ongoing education program to encourage everyone to "Monitor, Secure, and Dispose" their prescription medications. Numerous partners have made the success of this program possible.
- As part of the "Monitor, Secure, and Dispose" effort, the coalition organizes Arkansas's participation in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Take-Back Initiative, and take back events took place on September 25, 2010, April 30, 2011, October 29, 2011, April 28, 2012, September 29, 2012, April 27, 2013, and October 26, 2013.
- Due to the commitment, dedication, and effort of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Community, its partners, and the multi-agency coalition, and due to excellent participation by Arkansans in all areas of the state, the take back events have been successful above and beyond all expectations. Through seven events:
  - Arkansas ranks #4 nationally in pounds collected per person.
  - Over 41 tons, estimated at 115 million pills, have been collected in Arkansas.
  - Despite being just thirty-second in population among all states, Arkansas ranks #17 in total weight collected.
  - 54 more law enforcement agencies participate in Arkansas than the national average.
  - Arkansas's average number of collection sites for each event is 156 - the national per state average is 106 per event.
- Through seven take back events for the four state DEA region consisting of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, Arkansas, despite being the least populated:
  - Accounted for 63% of the total weight taken in for this entire region for all take back events combined.
  - Collected over 35,000 pounds more than the other three states combined.
  - Accounted for over half of the region's total sites for the seven collective events.
  - Had more participating law enforcement agencies than the other three states combined (AR – 916; all others combined – 800).
- Pills collected in take backs will never be abused, be accidentally ingested, be used in a crime, cause an overdose, cause a traffic accident, or pollute Arkansas waterways.
- In the past three years Arkansas youth prescription abuse rates have dropped in 27 of 30 measures included in the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA).