

City of Bellingham Medicine Return Program

Sylvia Graham
October 5th, 2015



Launched in 2010

- Developed protocol
- WA Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission approval
- 5 pharmacies - OTC and prescription medication
- Bellingham Police - narcotics & controlled substances
- Funding
 - EPA grant - 3 yrs
 - City Solid Waste





YES, Accepted	NO, Rejected
Prescription Medication and Medication samples	Non-FDA Prescription Drugs, Cosmetics, etc.
Medication for pets	Non-FDA/OTC
Medication containers	Thermometers
Sharps	All types of sharps Infectious waste
Inhalers	Personal care products
Syringes	Non-FDA pharmaceuticals
Syringe components	Non-FDA OTC
	OTC products
	Sharps
	Sharps containers
	Sharps needles
	Sharps syringes
	Sharps syringes with needles
	Sharps syringes without needles
	Sharps syringes with needles and caps
	Sharps syringes with needles and caps (used)
	Sharps syringes with needles and caps (used) (used)
	Sharps syringes with needles and caps (used) (used) (used)

Protocol

Pharmacist approves items.
Resident places them in bin.

When full, box is sealed for
shipment by Clean Harbors
for hazardous waste incineration.

Resident brings in meds.



Controlled substances
go to Police Dept.



Collection Totals

Year	Lbs.	Cost
2010	888	\$1,261
2011	1,723	\$2,447
2012	1,667	\$2,367
2013	1,561	\$2,217
2014	1,951	\$2,770
2015	2,670	\$3,791
Total	10,460	\$14,853

- Certified contractor
 - \$1.41/lb transport & destruction
- Start-up cost
 - ~\$800/pharmacy
- Compare with mailers
 - \$5/envelope
 - Safeway says "we don't sell any"

Accomplishments

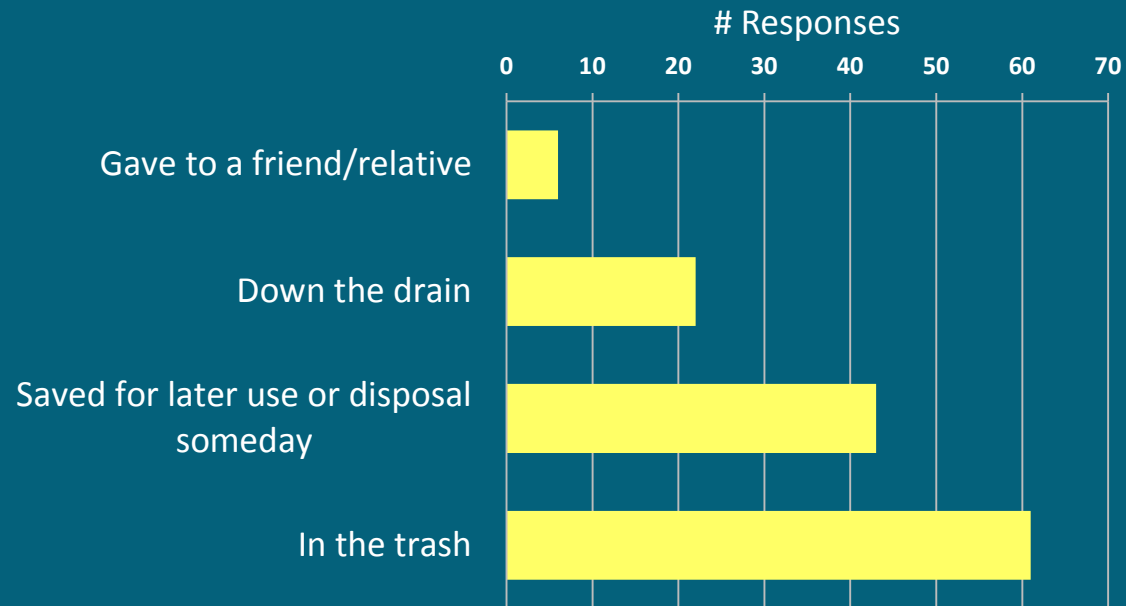
- Our protocol adopted by:
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Ferndale, WA
 - Vancouver, WA
- North American Hazardous Materials Management Association 2013 Awards
 - Hazardous Materials Program Excellence
 - Most Inspiring Member



2013 Survey

133 respondents

Disposal before using the take-back program



2013 Survey

99% support from residents (n=133)

100% support from pharmacies (n=4)



What are the biggest benefits to your pharmacy?



“Giving our customers a place to safely dispose of their meds.”

“It is a great service which enhances our standing in this particular community.”

“It provides a community service and makes our members feel like it's OK to get rid of... medications.”

Anything else you'd like us to know?



“They are upset about us not accepting controlled substances.”

“...a lot of people don't want to take them to the police department.”

“...helps get unwanted medications out of customers' homes where they have the potential to cause harm.”

Thank you

Sylvia Graham
Local Source Control Specialist
City of Bellingham
360.778.7961
slgraham@cob.org

