



Take Back/Family Fun Day

October 27th 2018

10am- 2pm

NMHU Melody Park

What is it?

- An opportunity for people to safely dispose of their unused or unwanted prescription medications- no questions asked, by turning them in to law enforcement. We will be accepting needles too.
- An event for our community to come together and provide families with a positive, informative day filled with healthy, fun activities.

Why are we doing this?

- Prescription drug abuse is becoming a bigger problem. San Miguel County is consistently ranked in the top 5 for most opioid related problems. For example:
 - 18.5% of teens reported use of a painkiller to get high, ranking San Miguel County #1 in the state.
 - From 2010-2014, there were 177 emergency room visits due to opioid overdose, ranking San Miguel County #2 in the state.
- Disposing of unwanted prescription medications means less will fall into the hands of anyone selling them illegally or taking them unnecessarily.
- Many people don't know how to properly dispose of unwanted prescription drugs and some have even admitted to throwing them down the toilet.

Why are we doing this as a community event?

- We want to give kids and their families an event where they can learn and have fun together.
- Recommendations from our DEA partner is that participation and awareness are higher when a TAKE BACK event is also a community/family event.
- We want families to become more familiar the resources available in the area.
- Events like these help law enforcement and other first responders improve their community relations, especially with children. Kids learn that first responders are there to help.

Here's what's going on:

- October 27th at Melody Park, 10am-2pm
- **Community agencies will be invited to participate and to set up booths.**
- We hope that all booths have activities and/or games to engage families in fun learning (DWI goggles and go karts, painting, Elks' Drug Awareness Trailer, and more!)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 505-454-3518 or desireemartinez@nmhu.edu. Thanks for all your help and support.

Desiree Martinez, MSW, CPS

Prevention Coordinator, Preventionist

San Miguel County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

New Mexico Highlands University

505 454 3518

Total numbers:

686 pounds of prescription drugs

60 pounds of sharps (needles)

April 2018

- 363 pounds of prescription drugs
- 33 pounds of sharps (needles)
- 500 people
- 35 agencies participated
- 180 free hot dogs were given out
- 30 community volunteers

October 2017

- 151 pounds of prescription drugs
- 14 pounds of sharps (needles)
- 500 people
- 35 agencies participated
- 180 free hot dogs were given out
- 25 college volunteers

April 2017

- 80 pounds of prescription drugs and needles were turned in
- 30 community agencies were represented
- 140 people attended and participated in the event
- 300 FREE hot dogs were given out

October 2016

- 92 pounds of prescription drugs were turned in (heroin and weed were also turned in).
- 5 red sharps containers were filled with needles
- 34 community agencies were represented
- 250 people attended and participated in the event