

# 2010 CSMD Collection Day:

A Retrospective

---

Jennifer True Parise

# What is the CSMD?

- Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal (Tompkins County)
- Members: Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, Ithaca Police Dept., Tompkins County Health Dept., Cornell University, Lifelong, Tompkins County Solid Waste Div., Healthcare Waste Solutions, ReturnCo Inc., TCAT Inc., Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, Tompkins County Sheriff's Office, Tops and Wegmans Markets
- Contact Person (for this product): Linda P. Wagenet
- Coalition member organizations span the life cycle
- Translational Research Note: "Organizing and staging successful and legal collection programs requires a significant commitment of time, money, and *human resources* [italics added]" (Glassmeyer et al., 2009, p. 571). This article reinforces the importance of human resources.

# What did the CSMD Accomplish?

- Collected 1,109 pounds of pills, ointments, etc.
- Filled 22 barrels taken to Oswego incinerator
- Had 509 vehicles pass through in the six hours open (9am- 3pm; 1.4 vehicles per minute)
- Had negligible wait in line for the drop-off (no more than 2-3 minutes)
- Translational Research Note: In addition to the above accomplishments, as the following article states these events provide a very important research opportunity:
  - These Events [Take-backs] have the distinct advantage of surveying the consumer and inquiring as to why the medicine accumulated as well as other parameters regarding the history of the use and non-use of the medication. These drugs can be categorized and counted, and the information can be compiled in a database. (Ruhoy & Daughton, 2008, p. 1166)

# 2010 Drug Collection Day Selected Survey Results

- **Q: What would you have done with these medications if you hadn't heard about this event?**

**Choice a)** Flush or wash them down the drain  
n= 47

**Choice b)** Continue to hold on to them  
n= 254

**Choice c)** Throw them in the trash  
n= 119

**Choice d)** Other collection  
n= 4

**Choice e)** Other (please specify)\*  
n =30

skipped question  
n= 44

\*Don't know (n= 17), Take to doctor/pharmacy (n= 10), Septic (n= 1), Burn (n= 1), Hazardous waste (n= 1)

- **Q: Why do you want to get rid of these medications? (check all that apply)**

**Choice a)** Medication expired  
n= 308

**Choice b)** Did not want anyone else to use it  
n= 25

**Choice c)** Safety for myself & household  
n= 28

**Choice d)** Stopped using or don't need this medication  
n=176

**Choice e)** Protect environment  
n= 31

**Choice f)** Don't know  
n= 5

**Choice g)** Deceased  
n= 14

**Choice h)** Other (please specify)\*  
n= 6

skipped question  
n= 21

\*Ped meds (n= 3), Don't remember (n= 2), Cleaning cabinet (n=1)

Translational Research Note: While the above data is informative, additional survey questions could be provided for a more useful understanding of people's behavior (see Winter & Koger, 2004, pp. 2-3). (see also slide on potential enhancement)

# An Organizer's Evaluation: Highlights

- Exceeded everyone's expectations
- Excellent example of community collaboration
- Coalition involved a wide range of community resources
- Success of collection day built momentum for a future event (October 2010)
- Translational Research Notes:
  - see Stokols, 1992 for information about community intervention
  - the 2010 CSMD collection event took a problem-oriented approach as proposed by Stern, 2000, p.527

# Potential Enhancements

- Logistical enhancements could include: select dates with favorable weather conditions; test reliability of technology in advance; longer range planning for permit acquisition; make drive through capacity a priority
- Survey enhancements could include: additional questions on socio-demographic data such as age, and specific motivational questions pertaining to self interest, and the desire to participate
- Translational Research Notes: Each of the above motivational aspects are discussed in the following articles:
  - De Young, 2000
  - Kaplan, 2000
  - Bound, Kitsou, & Voulvoulis, 2006

# References from Course Syllabus

- De Young, R. (2000). Expanding and evaluating motives for environmentally responsible behavior. *Journal of Social Issues, 50*(3), 509-526.
- Stern, P.C. (2000). Psychology and the science of human-environment interactions. *American Psychologist, 55*(5), 523-530.
- Stokols, D. (1992). Establishing and maintaining healthy environments: Toward a social ecology of health promotion. *American Psychologist, 47*, 6-22.
- Winter, D.D.N., & Koger, S.M. (2004). What on earth are we doing? *The psychology of environmental problems* (pp. 1-26). Mahwah NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

# Outside References

- Bound, J., Kitsou, K., & Voulvoulis, N. (2006). Household disposal of pharmaceuticals and perception of risk to the environment. *Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology*, 21, 301-307.
- Glassmeyer, S., Hinchey, E., Boehme, S., Daughton, C., Ruhoy, I., Conerly, O., et al. (2009). Disposal practices for unwanted residential medications in the United States. *Environment International*, 35, 566-572.
- Kaplan, K. (2000). Human nature and environmentally responsible behavior. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56(3), 491-508.
- Ruhoy, I., & Daughton, C. (2008). Beyond the medicine cabinet: An analysis of where and why medications accumulate. *Environment International*, 34, 1157-1169.