



Poison Prevention

Newsletter

March 2017

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

www.upstatepoison.org

60 YEARS

Walgreen's joins the UNYPC in Community Collaboration

Beginning in March, pharmacists and pharmacy interns rotating through Walgreen's pharmacies will teach our Safe Meds – Safe Disposal Program to teens and tweens in the service area of the UNYPC's 54 county region of NYS (all but NYC, Westchester County and Long Island). Walgreen's team will target sites such as schools (charter, elementary, middle, alternative programs etc.) scout groups, community centers, health centers and other locations.

The program will include information on the safe use and storage of medicine and safe disposal methods as well as the appropriate use of a poison center.

Our goal is for students to become the "keepers" of the information, to help their families make informed decisions about the safe use of meds and safe disposal as well as when to call a poison center about medication. Providing this information at a formative age will equip them to become responsible adults.

Additionally Walgreen's will encourage their pharmacists to participate in teaching this

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Reflections on the History of the Central New York Poison Control Center

By Howard L. Weinberger, MD (Medical Director - 1968 to 1991)

- The first recognized Poison Control Center was in Chicago, IL in 1953.
- The Syracuse Center was opened in 1957, led by Dr. Virginia Harris, Medical Director of Maternal and Child Health of the then, Syracuse Department of Health.
- Collaboration was developed with the Department of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical Center.
- The Poison Center was housed in the Syracuse City Hospital (now Silverman Hall).
- Primary responders to poison calls were pediatric interns and residents.
- First year of operation, 163 calls were answered.
- The Center consisted of a desk in an office with several textbooks.
- Product information came from the National Clearinghouse for Poison Control Centers, which also maintained a voluntarily database sent in by poison centers across the nation.
- In the 1960's it was common for many Emergency Departments to self-designate as a Poison Control Center.
- In 1964, with the opening of University Hospital and closing of City Hospital, the Poison Control Center moved to University Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Room.
- Staffing was by pediatric interns and residents.
- By 1967, the Syracuse poison center averaged 140 calls per month.
- 90% of calls came from the city of Syracuse and almost ¾ of all calls related to a possible ingestion by children less than 5 years of age.
- The Poison Control Center remained a joint venture of the County Health Department and the Department of Pediatrics for many years.
- In 1968, Dr. Howard Weinberger became the Medical Director.
- Drs. Harris and Weinberger initiated a number of community education efforts to highlight poison prevention. Two major initiatives nationally affected childhood poisoning in the 60's and 70's – one was the FDA regulation, which limited children's aspirin to no more than 36 in a bottle and the second was the introduction of so-called "child-proof" tops for medicines.

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SNADD

Sharps Needles And Drug Disposal

PROGRAM OF ONONDAGA COUNTY



Safe Drug Disposal is Now as Easy as a Trip to Your Local Police Department

Like many others throughout the US, Onondaga County is facing an opioid and heroin epidemic. Easy access to drugs, especially pain medication, contributes to this drug abuse.

Often times, callers to the poison center want to know the best method for safe disposal of medications, especially pain medication (as well as leftover sharps from at-home medical care). Generally, we hear these items are being stored in home medicine cabinets or in the case of some with elderly relatives, even in garbage bags waiting for a safe disposal solution. While most are aiming to rid their homes of excess clutter, many do not realize that saving unwanted or expired medications, increases the risk for diversion. While diversion can involve a stranger, it is more likely to be a friend or relative, suffering from addiction who takes them for your homes, cars or purses.

There is now a solution for safe disposal in Onondaga County, the new SNADD program (Sharps, Needles and Drug Disposal). In an effort to combat drug abuse in our communities, the general public now can dispose of unwanted, expired OTC (Over-the-Counter) and prescription medications by taking them to their local participating law enforcement agency in Onondaga County during regular business hours. As a complement to the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) twice-annual Drug Take Back Event, the SNADD program of Onondaga County offers safe disposal of household medications on an on-going basis throughout the year, not just twice a year. Starting with two police departments in September 2015, police departments in Onondaga County now have a medicine drop box installed at their facilities. Since September 2015, with two, then three and now nine police departments on board, special agents from the District Attorney's office have collected over 2,000 pounds to date. All drugs are taken to OCRRA for safe incineration.

The new SNADD program will also allow for disposal of hypodermic needles and other sharps such as lancets used for at-home medical care not presently accepted for collection at the DEA Take Back events. These items will be collected in a separate needle kiosk at some participating police departments.

- In 2014, heroin and opioids killed over 28,000 or 78 people every day, more than ever before on record. Today, that number has risen to 100!
- Drug overdose now leads motor vehicle accidents as the #1 cause of accidental deaths in the US
- Heroin calls to the Upstate New York Poison Center from Onondaga County tripled in 5 years
- National data shows that at least 50 percent of heroin users reported using prescription opioids prior to heroin
- Ten police departments in Onondaga County are now participating in the SNADD (Sharps, Needles and Drug Disposal) Program
- Since September 2015, over 2,000 pounds of drugs were collected through the SNADD program.

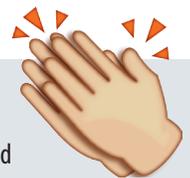


The UNYPC's new video on Safe Drug Disposal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRC6YLxgpII>

Medicine Boxes Awarded to SNADD Program

A round of applause to **KidCents**, the Rite Aid Foundation's charitable giving program dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children. KidCents is providing funding for three additional medicine boxes for Onondaga County's SNADD program. Once in place, every police department in Onondaga County will have a med box in its community for the public to dispose of unwanted, outdated medicine during regular business hours. Since inception, the program has safely collected and disposed of over 2,000 pounds of both prescription and over-the-counter medication.



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- In the mid 1970s', there were about 15 poison control centers in New York state – large centers in New York city, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Hudson Valley and Long Island, while others functioned in name only – basically a phone on the wall in an emergency room of some of the smaller hospitals.
- With support from the New York State Health Department, an informal consortium of medical directors of the larger centers (Buffalo, Long Island, NYC, Rochester, Hudson Valley and Syracuse) began meeting in an attempt to standardize the quality of care and performance of poison centers among the NYS centers.
- The Center was receiving 400 calls per month by the end of the 1970's with almost 30% of calls from outside Onondaga County .
- Emma Abel, RN was the first full time nurse-specialist hired to answer calls in the early 1980's followed by the hiring of other nurses dedicated fully to the poison center as the number of calls continued to increase.
- The medical directors of the NYS poison centers kept the pressure on in Albany documenting the need for formal state support for a state-wide poison control center network, which was finally accomplished in 1986.
- The Center was officially transferred to the Department of Emergency Medicine in 1991 under the medical direction of Dr. Richard Cantor who has led it to a level of success unimagined in the "olden" days.
- In 1992, the Upstate New York Poison Center received its first accreditation as recognized by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.
- In 2006, the name was changed to the Upstate New York Poison Center to align with its host institution and to better reflect the area of the population served.
- Today, the Upstate New York Poison Center is still dedicated to the same goals and principles, which Dr. Harris envisioned from the first – to serve as a resource in the management of poisoning (mainly accidental) and for dissemination of education to the public and to professionals for poison prevention.

SNADD

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The unified goal is to reduce the availability of all drugs in our homes, especially more dangerous drugs such as pain medications. This new program will help reduce the risk of ingestion, exposure, and most importantly, will help prevent drug abuse in our communities.

So, whether you have pain medication left over from surgery 6 months ago or a container full of needles from at-home medical care, safe disposal is as easy as a trip to your local police department!

The Sharps, Needles and Drug Disposal project is realized through the collaborative efforts of: the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, the Onondaga County Health Department, Upstate New York Poison Center, Covanta, OCRRA, REACH CNY, Prevention Network, and the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment.

Please visit our website for additional information and for drop-off locations.



Walgreen's joins the UNYPC in Community Collaboration

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program to fulfill their "community service" hours. The Upstate New York Poison Center ran a similar program for young children with Kinney Drugs, Inc. in 2014 reaching over 1,500 youth over the course of 3 months. The current plan is to teach the program over the course of 18 months.

Sending a HUGE thank you to Walgreen's for making this collaboration possible.

Stay tuned for more news.



Program your cell phone 1-800-222-1222



You just may save a life!

**A Poisoning Can
Happen to **You!****



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Upstate Medical University
750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210
P: 1.800.222.1222 F: 315.464.7077 W: upstatepoison.org