

**2010 NC Operation Medicine Drop**  
**Safe Kids North Carolina**  
**Coordinator: Kelly Ransdell**





**Safe Kids North Carolina along with law enforcement agencies across North Carolina, State Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored a statewide prescription medication take-back program called Operation Medicine Drop to prevent accidental poisonings and abuse.**



# Community Value

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- Disposal of unused prescription drugs and controlled substances is complicated but has multiple benefits:
  - reducing drug abuse
  - accidental poisoning
  - Environmental - flushing drugs into the water supply



# 2010 Event Summary

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- 1.4 Million dosages collected
- 112 Agencies held 186 events
  - 58 police departments
  - 36 Sheriffs Offices
  - 34 Safe Kids Coalitions
  - 67 Counties participated
- 95% Said the event was Good (39%) or Excellent (56%)



# Key Components

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- Toolkit
- How to guide
- Biohazard Sign
- DEA Authorization Letter
- Prescription Log



[www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org)

# Before You Start

- Know federal guidelines
- Check state laws for collection and disposal.



## Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs

Office of National Drug Control Policy October 2009

### ***Federal Guidelines:***

- Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so. For information on drugs that should be flushed visit the [FDA's website](#).
- To dispose of prescription drugs not labeled to be flushed, you may be able to take advantage of community drug take-back programs or other programs, such as household hazardous waste collection events, that collect drugs at a central location for proper disposal. Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.
- If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:
  1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
  2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
  3. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
  4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
  5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

Office of National Drug Control Policy  
750 17<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503  
p (202) 395-6638 f (202) 395-6730



[www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov](http://www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov)

# Partnerships Needed

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- **Law Enforcement Agency Partnership** –This may be your local sheriff’s office or the narcotics unit of your local police department.
  - Law enforcement agencies that participate must complete and send the DEA Authorization Letter prior to the holding the take-back event.
- **Volunteers** – You will need one law enforcement officer per site and two additional volunteers to help with collection
- **Pharmacists and local substance abuse coalitions**
- **Neutral locations such as retailers, pharmacies, community centers and churches are excellent locations for these events.**



# Supplies

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- Literature: poison prevention, substance abuse and environmental concerns.
- Supplies – You will need a table, table cloth, signs, clipboard, pens, donation collection box, permanent markers, 4-5 large containers (96 gallon trash cans) w/ locks.
- Marketing – Posters, brochures and flyers
- Signage – Your event should not collect biohazard materials.

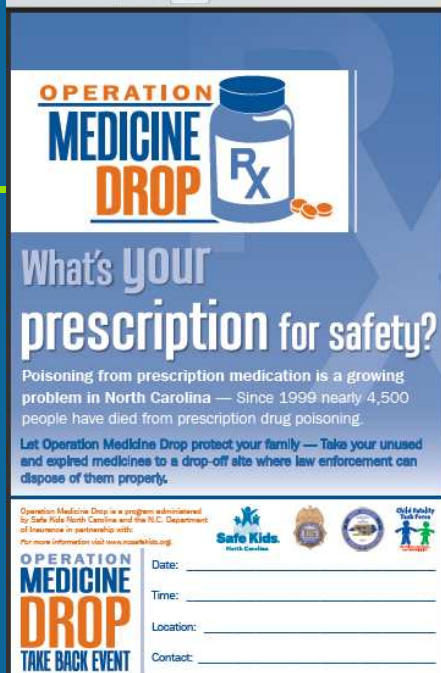




# Media Materials

- Press Release before and after the event
- Artwork for Banners and Signs

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  <p>Prescription Poisoning is on the rise in North Carolina – Let Operation Medicine Drop protect you.</p> <p>Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.ncsafekids.org">www.ncsafekids.org</a>.</p> |  <p>Prescription Poisoning is on the rise in North Carolina – Let Operation Medicine Drop protect you.</p> <p>Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.ncsafekids.org">www.ncsafekids.org</a>.</p> |  <p>Prescription Poisoning is on the rise in North Carolina – Let Operation Medicine Drop protect you.</p> <p>Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.ncsafekids.org">www.ncsafekids.org</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT</b></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Contact: _____</p>  | <p><b>OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT</b></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Contact: _____</p>  | <p><b>OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT</b></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Contact: _____</p>   |

**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP**

What's your prescription for safety?

Poisoning from prescription medication is a growing problem in North Carolina — Since 1999 nearly 4,500 people have died from prescription drug poisoning.

Let Operation Medicine Drop protect your family — Take your unused and expired medicines to a drop-off site where law enforcement can dispose of them properly.

Operation Medicine Drop is a program administered by Safe Kids North Carolina and the N.C. Department of Insurance in partnership with:

For more information call [www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org)

**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



**Prescription Poisoning is on the rise in North Carolina – Let Operation Medicine Drop protect you.**

Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands.

For more information, visit [www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org).

**OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

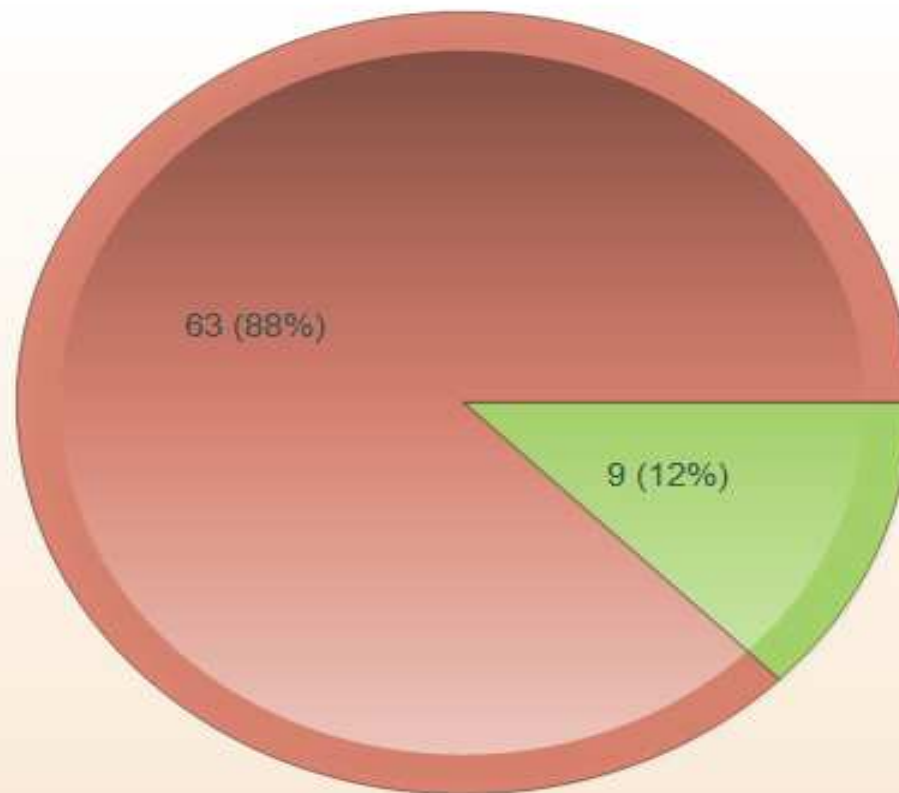
Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

# Participants' Experience

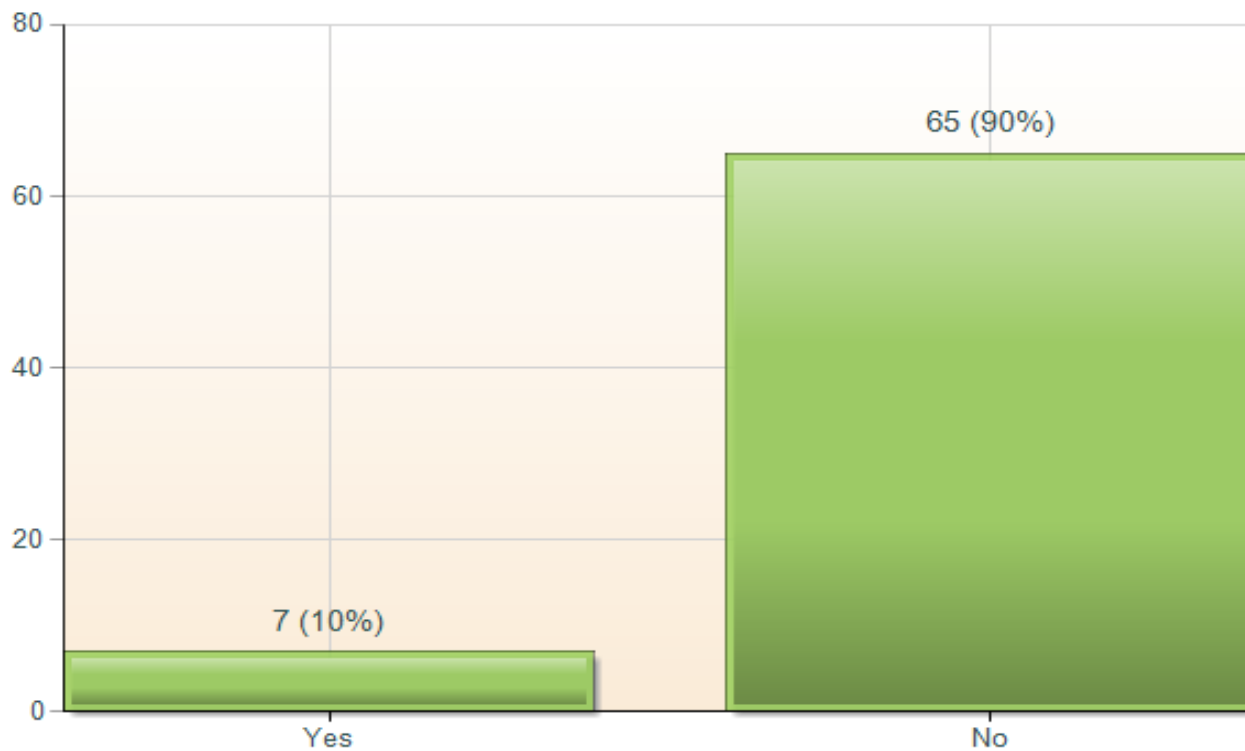
Have you participated in a medicine take-back program prior to the Operation Medicine Drop blitz?

Yes No



# Participants' Experience

Have you conducted other "prevention events" for unintentional poisoning?



# Disposal Method

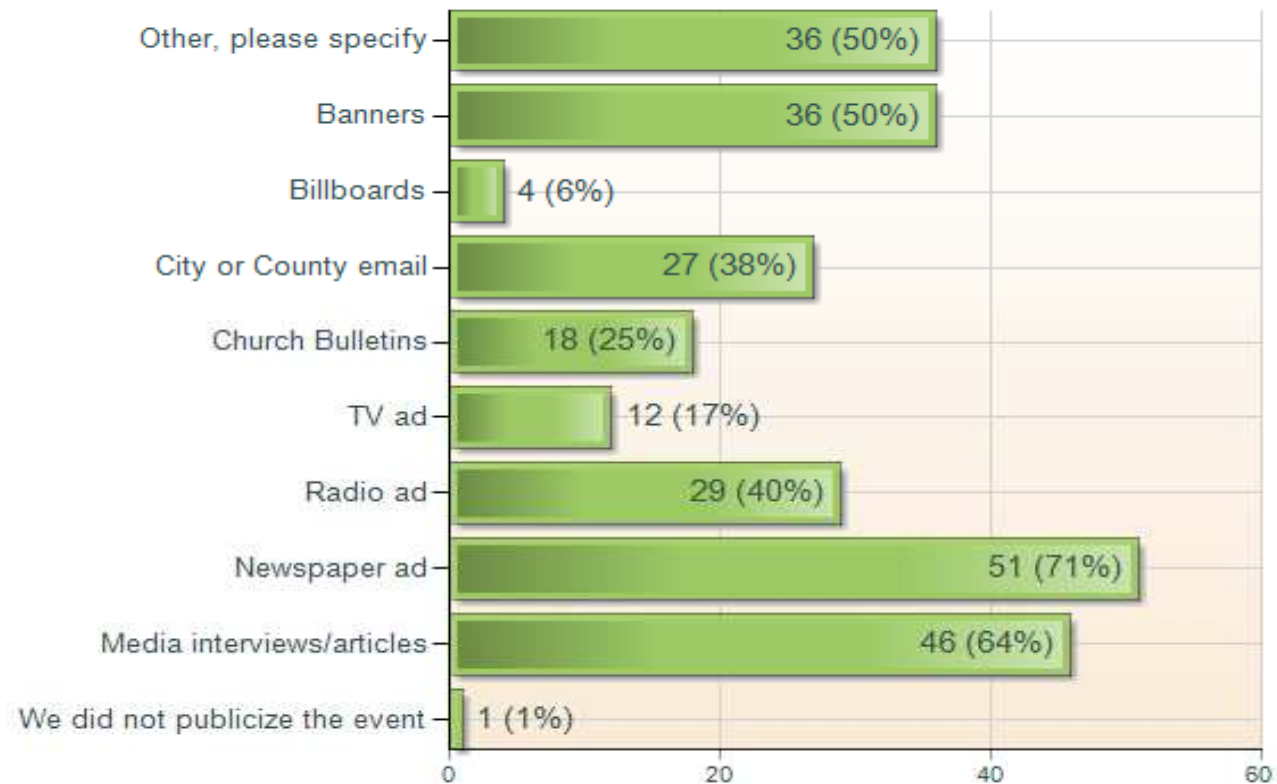
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- Local hospital incinerated
- Burn barrel
- Disposed of at EPA incinerator
- Incinerator at Western Ag. Center
- SBI field office (State Bureau of Investigation)
- Wilmington disposal of evidence
- Followed agency protocol for destruction of medication
- Incinerator
- Incinerator - Haw River NC.
- Sheriff's Office Incinerator
- Local law enforcement disposed /incinerated
- Enserve South Center LLC, Regulated Medical Waste
- Rowan County Animal Control incinerator
- Took to local veterinarian facility with incinerator
- Stericycle Medical Waste Facility



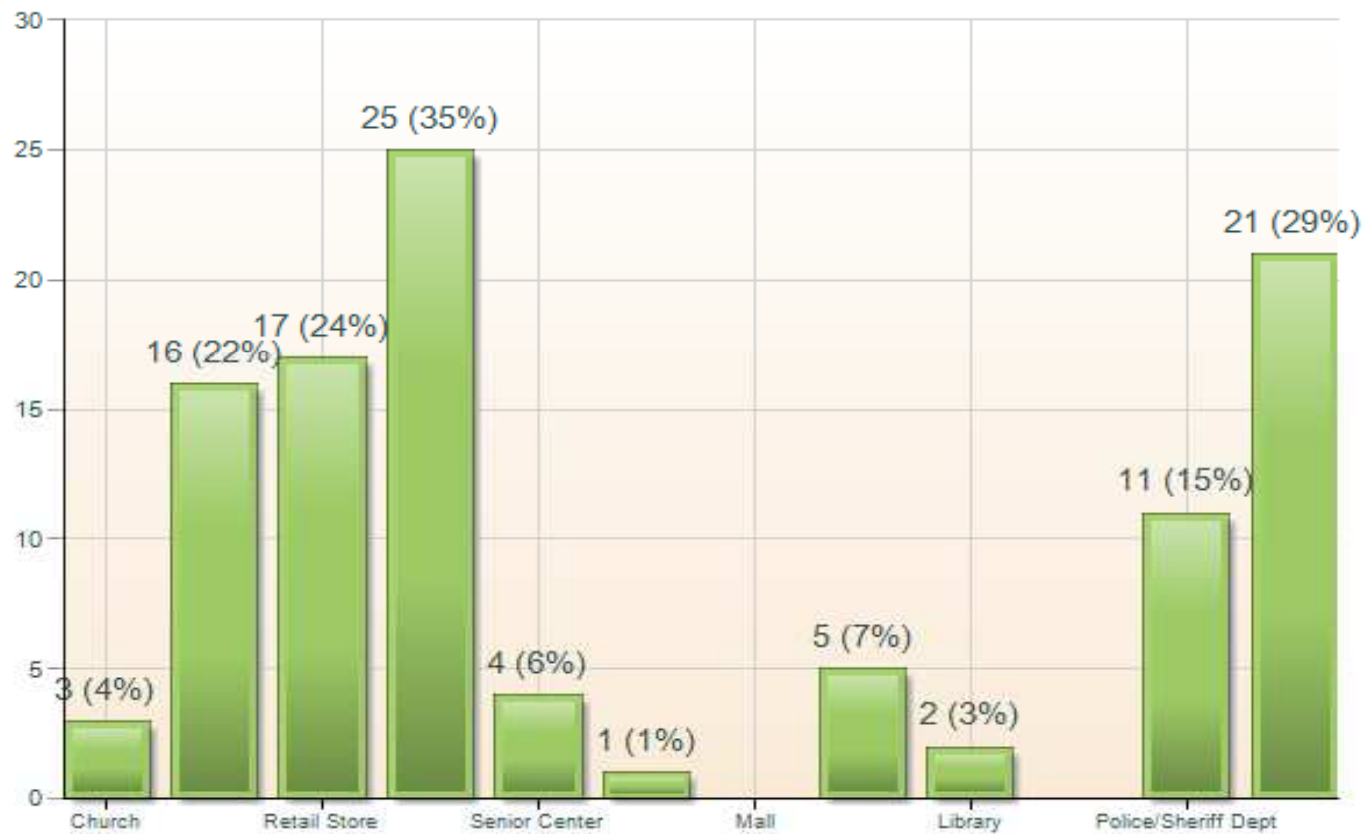
# Publicizing Event

Select the way(s) that you publicized your Operation Medicine Drop event (s). Check all that apply.



# Event Locations

Where were these sites hosted? Select all that apply



# Other Locations

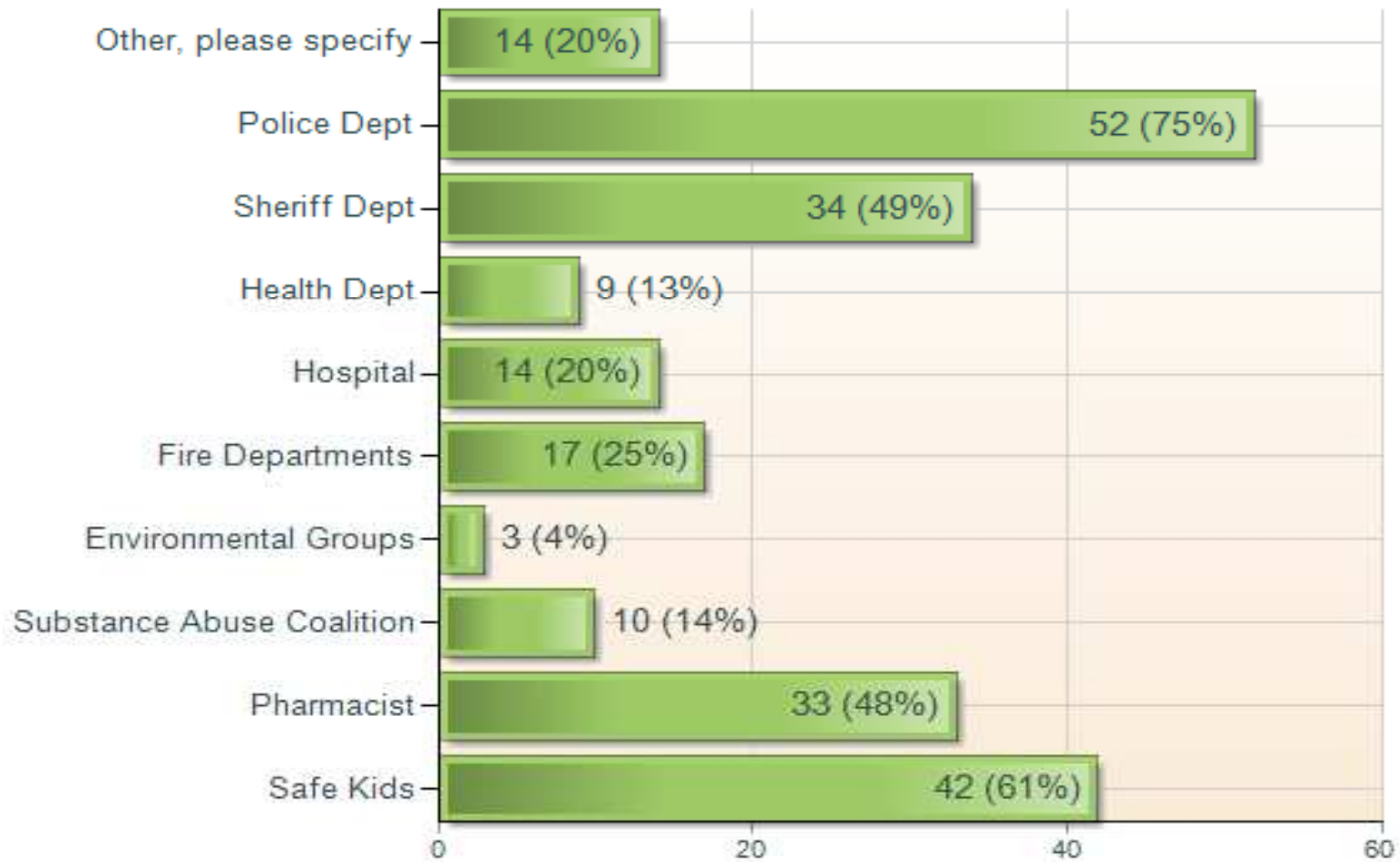
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- Cafeterias and work places
- Fire dept -8
- Train Depot
- Health Department - 2
- Community Center
- Mini-mall
- County Recreation Facility -2
- Hospital
- Nature Center, Park, Planetarium
- Wal-Mart - 2
- Health club in a mall
- Central Ford, Inc
- In PVA of store
- County Agricultural Extension Office



# Partners

Check all partners that participated in the Operation Medicine Drop event (s)





# Other Partners

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- Campbell University
- Pharmacist students
- School System
- County Extension Office-2
- County Managers Office
- School Nurses
- Senior Centers Group
- Vice/Narcotics Unit
- Cooperative Extension
- Municipalities
- Utilities
- Medical offices
- Red Cross
- Food Lion
- Mental Health
- City recreation centers
- Head Start (daycares)
- Staples...donated banners
- Mall management
- NC State Bureau of Investigation
- 4H
- Public Safety/EMS



# Issues and Obstacles

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- Agency was told people feared this was a "sting" operation and thought they would be arrested if they showed up with controlled substance meds.
- Weren't aware of how medicine had to be packaged for disposal. We collected all medication in 30 gallon barrels. After the event we spent an entire day going through the barrel to package medication for disposal.
- Had event on a Friday...people were out of town for the weekend and on Monday they came to the PD to drop the meds off.



# Issues and Obstacles

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- Did not specify controlled substance during inventory. It was very time consuming to do so afterwards
- Law enforcement agencies not wanting to participate
- Needed more people to record drug doses
- HIPA Concerns
- Finding place to dispose of drugs
- Manpower to host event in other locations
- People trying to bring in used needles



# Suggestions for Improvement

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- A portal with contact information so there is not duplication within the area on events and merge press releases so citizens will not be confused about different days and locations.
- Have electronic spreadsheet to keep running totals.
- Get the information to pharmacies at least a couple of months in advance . People naturally ask pharmacist about old meds.
- More state wide media coverage and promotional materials
- Drop off sites for year round access



# Future Participation

Would you be willing to conduct an Operation Medicine Drop event each year as part of a statewide blitz?

Yes No

72 (100%)

A 3D pie chart with a green gradient, showing a single slice representing 100% of the data. The text '72 (100%)' is centered within the chart.