



MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2016

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Practice Safe Medication Storage and Proper Disposal Methods

In response to our country's prescription drug abuse epidemic, the St. Clair County Health Department and Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup would like to remind residents about safe medication storage and proper disposal methods.

St. Clair County is not shielded from the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the nation. In 2015, there were 48 drug related deaths in St. Clair County, and over half of these deaths involved some type of prescription medication. *"The message is simple,"* said Dr. Annette Mercatante, St. Clair County Health Department's Medical Health Officer. *"Taking someone else's prescription drugs is not safe. This is extremely dangerous because it increases your chances of accidental overdose and the risk of future abuse."*

When prescribed a prescription medication:

- Store medications in secure locations such as lock-boxes, medication safes, or other lockable spaces.
- Avoid storage places where children and others can easily access, such as drawers, nightstands, or kitchen cabinets.
- Once finished with a prescription medication, contact your local police or sheriff's department on prescription drug take back collection information. The DEA *National Drug Take Back Day* is October 22 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For participating locations visit www.dea.gov.

To learn more visit www.stopprescriptionabuse.com or join the St. Clair County Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup meetings every fourth Monday from 10:00am to 11:30am at the St. Clair County Health Department. Call (810) 987-5300 for details.

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