



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

An alarming number of New Jersey's youth are intentionally abusing prescription medicines to get high.

The 2007 study by the National Study of Drug-Use and Health found that 70% of people who abuse prescription pain relievers say they got them from friends or relatives. A recent study on drug use by New Jersey middle school students conducted by the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) found that in half the schools surveyed prescription drugs are abused more than twice that of ecstasy and cocaine. What is worse, another PDFNJ study found that 47% of the parents of middle school students know very little about prescription drug abuse.

To help combat this growing threat to our nation's children, the United States Senate has deemed October 2009 as National Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month. Here in Passaic County, we are taking things even further by hosting Operation Medicine Cabinet (OMCNJ) on November 14, 2009. OMCNJ is for community residents to properly dispose of their unused unwanted and expired medicine. This statewide initiative is the first of its kind in the nation. The statewide effort is being spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration-New Jersey Division, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, as well as dozens of federal, state, county and local law enforcement and prevention organizations in the state.

Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem in New Jersey, and the easiest way to combat it is to properly dispose of your old medicine. OMCNJ is the best way to do just that, so on November 14, 2009, visit our local collection site (see below) and drop off your unused, unwanted or expired medicine. For more information, please visit www.operationmedicinecabinetnj.com.

Bloomington Police Department	973-838-0158
Clifton Police Department	973-470-5900
Haledon Police Department	973-790-4444
Hawthorne Police Department	973-427-1800
Little Falls Police Department	973-256-0200
North Haledon Police Department	973-423-1111
Passaic County Sheriff's Department	973-389-5900
Passaic Police Department	973-365-3965
Paterson Police Department	973-321-0510
Pompton Lakes Police Department	973-835-0400
Prospect Park Police Department	973-790-7900
Ringwood Police Department	973-962-7017
Totowa Police Department	973-790-3700
Wanaque Police Department	973-835-5600
Wayne Police Department	973-633-3550
West Milford Police Department	973-728-2802
Woodland Park Police Department	973-345-8114