



# COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Tricia Landquist  
(714) 834-2178

## TAKE BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ON OCTOBER 26, 2013

**(Santa Ana)** – In an effort to help prevent prescription drug abuse and diversion, the Orange County Health Care Agency, local law enforcement agencies and community partners will collaborate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to collect expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day – October 26, 2013.

National rates of prescription drug abuse, accidental poisoning and overdoses are alarmingly high in the United States – More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs. The majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

At the April 27, 2013 Take-Back event, more than 6,240 pounds (over 3 tons) of unwanted prescription medications were collected at many sites throughout Orange County. Nationally, during six previous Take-Back events, the DEA in conjunction with state, local and tribal law enforcement partners have collected more than 2.8 million pounds (1,409 tons) of prescription medications that were removed from circulation.

**There are more than 25 collection sites in Orange County and the service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. To find a collection site in your community, visit the [DEA website](#) or call 1-800-882-9539.**

To learn more about drug abuse prevention efforts in Orange County, visit the Health Care Agency [Alcohol & Drug Education & Prevention Team website](#).

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