



NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 18, 2021

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RPD AND ACSO PARTNERING WITH ER/24 7 TO “CRUSH THE CRISIS”

ROCKPORT, TX – The Corpus Christi Medical Center, in conjunction with the Rockport Police Department and Aransas County Sheriff’s Office, is hosting a “Crush the Crisis” program on Saturday, October 23 from 10 am to 2 pm at the ER 24/7 located at the intersection of FM 2165 (Pearl Street) and Enterprise. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness of the opioid crisis and encourage residents to drop off unused and expired medications for disposal.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 70,630 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2019, with more than 70% attributed to opioids. “Crush the Crisis” Take Back Day events aim to educate our communities on the risk of opioid misuse, while providing a safe and anonymous way to dispose of medications that may be left over from previous procedures or other medical visits. As we better understand the opioid crisis, we learn that a significant number of opioid addictions and overdose deaths come from individuals accessing unused opioids prescriptions of family and friends.

Importance of Take Back Events:

- More than [half of people who misuse](#) opioid medications report:
 - Obtaining them for free or stealing them from someone they know.
 - Going to multiple doctors to get additional prescriptions.
 - Filling prescriptions at different pharmacies so that no one will notice how many pills they get each month.
- Teens hold a common misperception that prescription drugs are less harmful than other drugs; in the past year, [two-thirds of teens](#) who misused pain relievers reported that they got them from family, friends and the home medicine cabinet

(more)

- Every minute of every day, a poison control center answers a call about a [young child who has accidentally ingested](#) a medication.
- The safest and most responsible option to dispose of medication is to take unwanted medications to a drug take back site or event.
 - Unused opioids thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or sold illegally.
 - Flushing medications down the toilet pose a potentially health and environmental hazard.

The Problem: Opioid Misuse

- Opioid crisis has devastating consequences:
 - Increases in opioid misuse and related overdoses
 - Rising incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during pregnancy
 - Increase in injection drug use has also contributed to the spread of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C.
- In 2019, [an estimated 1.6 million people](#) in the United States suffered from an opioid use disorder.
- In 2019, 70,630 people died from drug overdoses in the U.S. (Source: [NCHS](#))
 - Opioids were involved in more than 70% (49,860) of those deaths. (Source: [CDC](#))
 - Nearly 73% of opioid-involved overdose deaths involve synthetic opioids. (Source: [CDC](#))
- Roughly 21 – 29% of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them. (Source: [NIH](#))
- [One large study](#) published with the CDC found that first time opioid users had a 6% probability of continued opioid use at one year following a prescription of opioids, as low as a one day prescription.
 - The likelihood of chronic opioid use increased with each additional day of medication supplied.
- About 80% of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids. (Source: [NIH](#))

Corpus Christi Medical Center, which owns and operates Rockport’s 24/7 emergency room, is a healthcare system of hospitals and emergency rooms in the Coastal Bend area. The program corresponds with the DEA’s National Prescription Take Back Day, which is running concurrently throughout the country.