



Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma and Substance Abuse (PARTS)

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PARTS Policy Brief for Prescription Drug Use Disposal

PARTS Coalition’s mission is to prevent alcohol-related injuries and fatalities, prevent youth access to alcohol and drugs and the initiated use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Local Conditions:

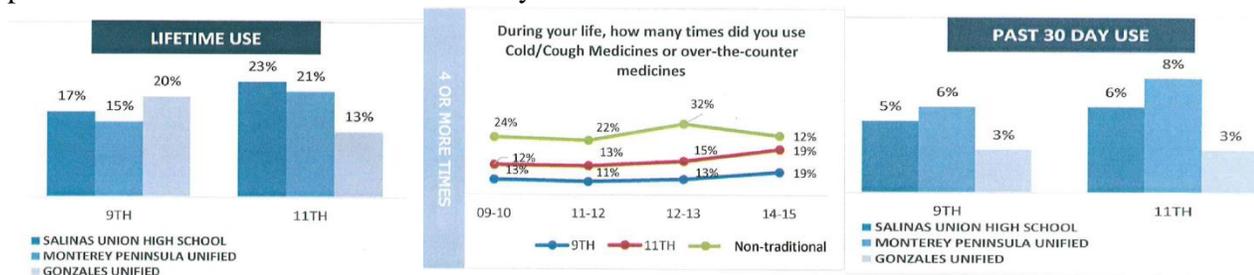
PARTS has concern with the community cost of disposal of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. The existing take back program currently has 12 sites that accept medications including pharmacies (3), police stations (6), household hazardous waste facilities (2) and a hospital. Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula collected 724 pounds of medication from one of their two bins from May 1 to October 11, 2017. There are two Prescription Drug Take Back days per year with approximately 8 locations within Monterey County, including the California Highway Patrol, who collected 176 pounds of unwanted and expired medication in October 2017.

What an EPR Ordinance Does:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a strategy that places some responsibility for end of life management of consumer products on the manufacturers of the products, while encouraging product design that minimizes negative impacts on human health and the environment at every stage of the product's lifecycle.

Summary of Local Data:

In the last decade, there has been an increasing trend in prescription drug and OTC medication misuse and abuse nationally and locally. Some studies indicate that most prescription medicines that are abused come from families and friends. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids (2013) report that almost four in ten teens (38 percent) who have misused or abused a prescription drug have obtained them from their parents’ medicine cabinet. Many individuals do not know how to safely dispose of medications and end up holding onto old/unused meds, flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage. This can lead to problems including but not limited to: prescription drug misuse and abuse, damage to water treatment systems and pollution to the environment and waterways.



(California Healthy Kids Survey, 2014-2015)

Solution:

To address improper disposal and the associated impacts, **PARTS recommends that an EPR Ordinance is put into place locally** that includes the following elements:

- Over the counter medications
- Prescriptions, including controlled substances
- Producers pay 100% of the program hard costs
- Convenience standards set to provide reasonably convenient and equitable access
- Producer funded and managed public education/ outreach programs that are subject to local government oversight
- Producers pay fees to reimburse public agency oversight costs
- Allows the public agency to assess a penalty/fine for failure to comply