

SAFE RX SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2021 STORAGE AND DISPOSAL SURVEY FACT SHEET



SafeRx Santa Cruz County



COMMUNITY PREVENTION PARTNERS

Community Prevention Partners (CPP) and SafeRx Santa Cruz County are two county coalitions working to decrease youth substance use by:

- Decreasing youth access to prescription drugs from unsecured home storage
- Increasing use of our county-wide prescription drug disposal system to remove unneeded medications from the home

752 Community members were surveyed in 2019, and **579** in 2021, to ask about their medication, syringe, and cannabis home storage practices, and to find out how community members dispose of medications and syringes. This survey helps SafeRx and CPP plan strategies, and evaluate progress, preventing substance use disorders and overdoses.

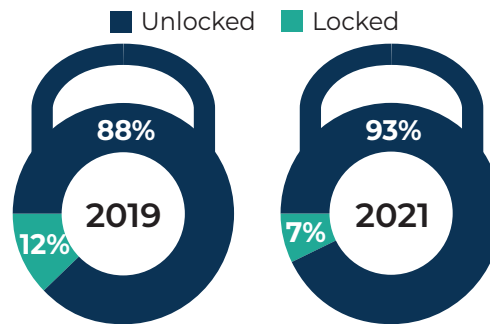
TOTAL PEOPLE SURVEYED

2019 **752**

2021 **579**

STORAGE FACTS

LOCKED VS UNLOCKED



2019 n=701 (locked=85, unlocked=616), 2021 n=547 (locked=38, unlocked=509)

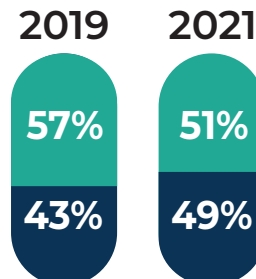
Unlocked medications can provide easy access to youth, other family members, and visitors. Learn more from the

Talk It Up Lock It Up Campaign at:

<https://www.hipsc.org/for-community-members>

7% of community members responded that they lock their medications down from **12%** in 2019.

UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATION IN HOME



2019 n=720, 2021 n=548

■ Do not have unused or expired meds in home ■ Have unused or expired meds in home

There was a **6%** reduction in people who have unused medications in the home

CANNABIS STORAGE: LOCKED VS UNLOCKED

2021	Minors in Home	No Minors in Home
LOCKED	28%	10%
UNLOCKED	72%	90%

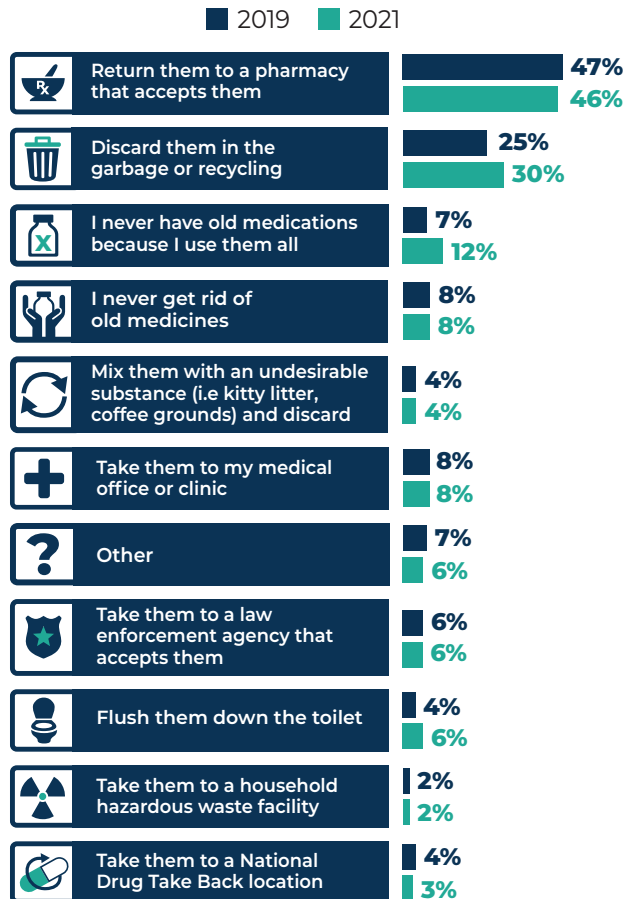
2021 minors in the home n=64 (locked=18, unlocked=46); No minors in the home n=123 (locked=12, unlocked=111)

In 2015 when SafeRx started, the Santa Cruz County opioid prescription rate was much higher than the State. SafeRx Santa Cruz County has taken action to reduce opioid prescriptions and prevent opioid use disorders by publishing best practice guidelines for prescribers, facilitating peer education on safe prescribing practices, and providing education to the community about alternative pain management options and how to talk to your doctor if opioids have failed you.

DISPOSAL FACTS

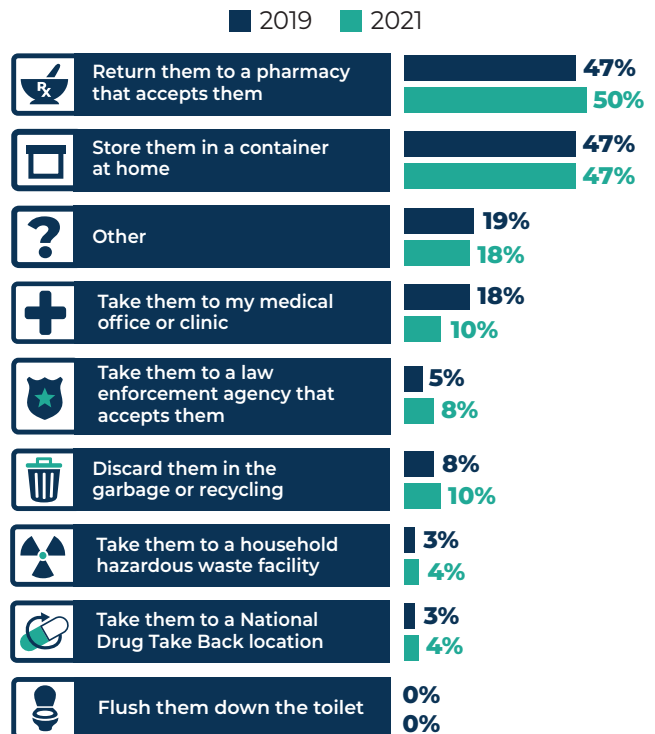
In 2015 and 2016 Santa Cruz County and the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville all passed **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Ordinances**, which requires pharmaceutical companies to pay for environmentally safe disposal of medications and sharps. Since the passing of this ordinance, most local pharmacies have kiosks or pre-paid mail back bags for disposal.

METHOD OF MEDICATION DISPOSAL, 2019-2021



2019 n=721 offering 883 responses, 2021 n=548 offering 718 responses

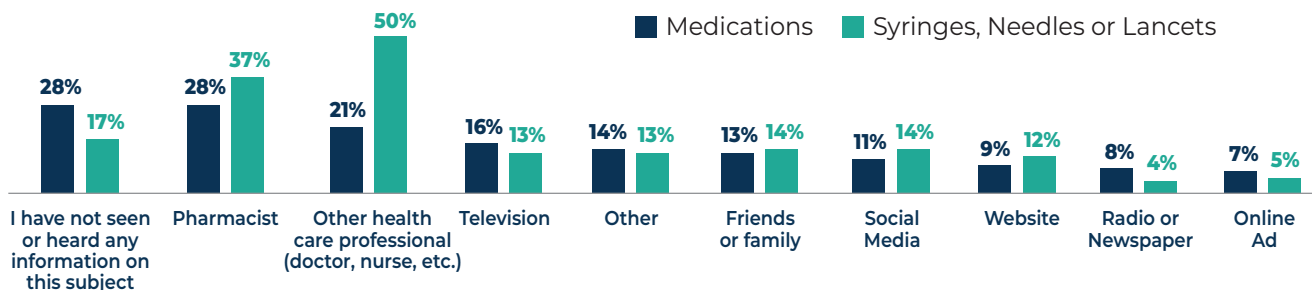
METHOD OF SYRINGE, NEEDLE OR LANCET DISPOSAL, 2019-2021



2019 n=91 offering responses 137 responses, 2021 n=77 offering 112 responses

Reported disposal methods for medications and syringes, needles, and lancets remain consistent between 2019-2021

WHERE PEOPLE REPORT GETTING INFORMATION ON DISPOSAL OPTIONS, 2021



2021 Medications n=543 offering 843 responses; 2021 Syringes, Needles, or Lancets n=78 offering 139 responses

In response to these findings, SafeRx and Community Prevention Partners (CPP) will continue to work closely with partners to disseminate disposal and storage information and focus on ensuring that secure storage and disposal options are accessible to prevent substance use disorders and overdoses in our community. For more information about SafeRx, please visit <http://www.hipsc.org/saferrx>

