

Medication and Sharps Takeback 2021 Program Highlights



Medication Takeback Overview

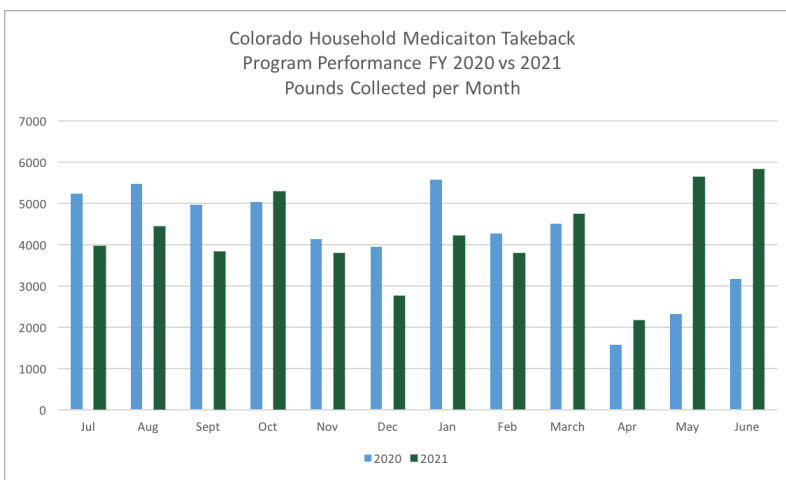
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) manages the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program (“program”), (6CCR 1010-23 Colorado Household Medication and Household Sharps Take-Back Program). The program provides the public a convenient, environmentally sound disposal option for unwanted and unused household medications. The program currently consists of 177 secure collection receptacles at law enforcement agencies and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registrants (with properly amended registrations), including retail pharmacies and hospitals/clinics with on-site pharmacies across Colorado, reaching 62 counties.

Pounds Collected Since November 2016—
170,464 lbs

The program accepts prescription medications, prescribed controlled substances, over-the-counter medications, medication samples, pet medications, vitamins, liquid medications in small, leakproof containers, medicated ointments or lotions, and inhalers.

Medication Pounds Collected Per Month

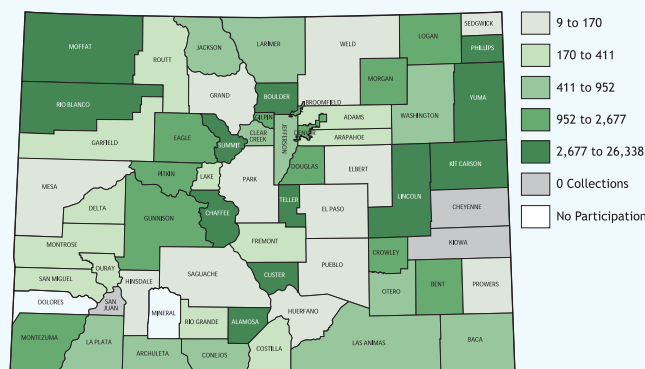
Fiscal year 2020–2021



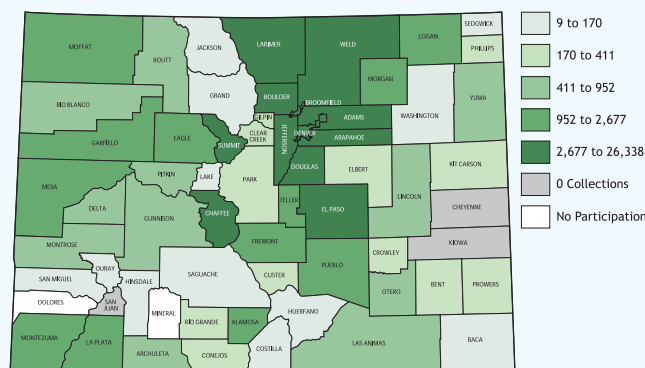
County Close-up

Drop-off locations in all Colorado counties except Dolores and Mineral.

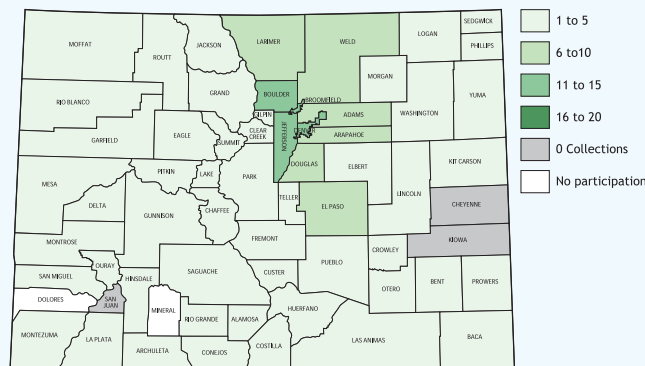
Pounds of medication collected per 100,000 people



Total pounds of medication collected by county



Number of collection sites in each county

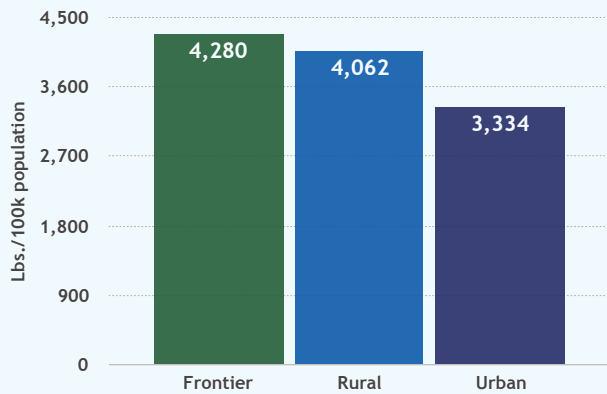


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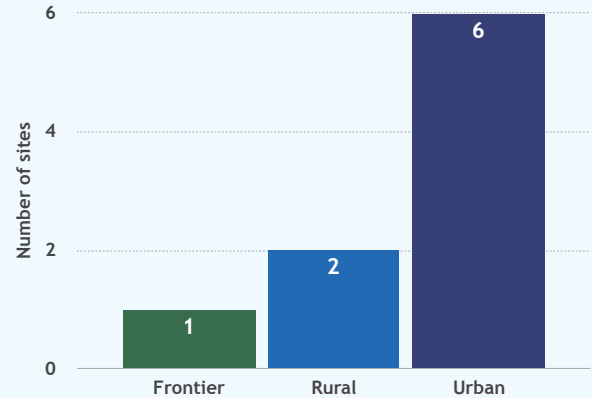
Visit the Takeback Program @ cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-medication-take-back-program for locations and more information.

Medication Takeback County Close-up

Average total pounds collected per 100,000 people, by county type*



Average number of takeback sites, by county type*



*As defined by the Colorado Rural Health Center

Rural — a non-metropolitan county that has no cities with more than 50,000 residents.

Frontier — a county that has a population density of six or fewer residents per square mile.

Urban — a county that either is part of a metropolitan area or has at least one city of 50,000 residents.

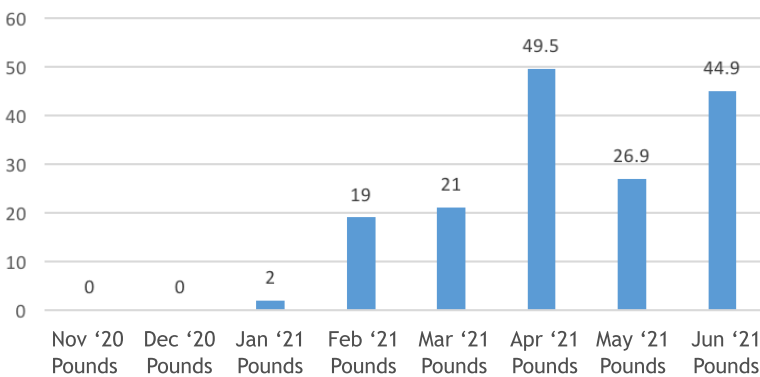
Sharps Takeback Overview



Senate Bill 19-227 expanded the Medication Takeback Program to include safe collection and disposal of sharps (needles, syringes, and other devices used to inject medication), with the goal of providing safe, free, and convenient access to

proper sharps disposal, especially to communities in need. The first step was to determine how and where people can drop off sharps. In February 2020, the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission adopted rules and regulations to include sharps, and the collection program began in October, 2020. Currently, the program has 10 kiosks across the Front Range and a robust mailback program with 62 partners offering statewide coverage. For fiscal year 2021 (July 2020-June 2021), the program collected more than 375 pounds of sharps for proper disposal.

Sharps collected by mail, July 2020 – June 2021



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TWO EASY OPTIONS

10 drop-off kiosks across the Front Range



Drop-off Sharps Collected FY 2021
212 lbs

Sharps Mailback

- 62 distributors of sharps containers,
- 1,608 1-quart containers distributed
- 87 containers returned*

* Most sharps containers were distributed near the end of the fiscal year, in May and June of 2021, leading to the low return rate.



Mailback Sharps Collected FY 2021
163.3 lbs



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