



Prescription Drug Safe Disposal Programs

Emily Dean
Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol (BACODA)



Outline

- Why do we need safe disposal programs for prescription drugs?
- How does this affect waste disposal?
- What local solutions & resources has BACODA helped develop through our community coalitions for substance abuse prevention?



The Problem

20%

Of Texas youth have used prescription drugs for the purpose of getting high before they graduate high school. (Texas School Survey, 2018)



**The #1 point of access is the
medicine cabinet of family
members and friends.**

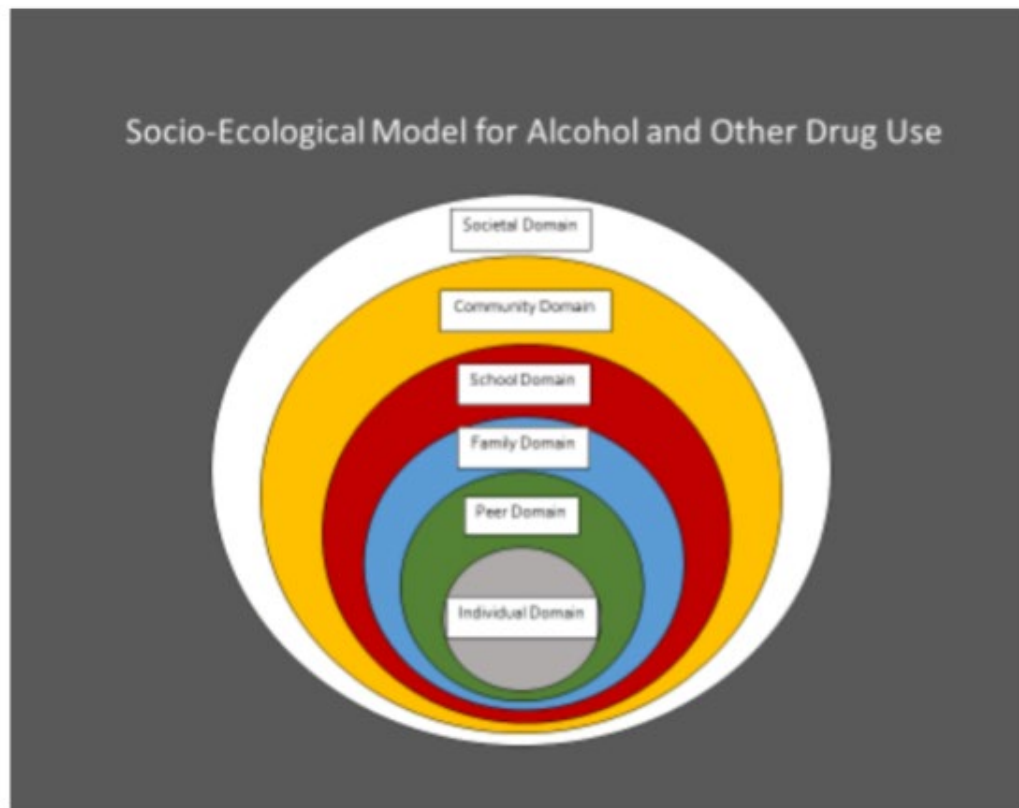




Prevention Strategies to Reduce Youth Rx Abuse Rates

- Reduce easy access within the home and community
- Facilitate safe disposal
- Educate parents, teachers, and other adults who serve youth
- Promote positive alternatives for youth within the community
- Equip first responders and law enforcement with overdose reversal

Figure 2. Socio-ecological model for alcohol and other drug use



² D'Amico, EJ, Chan Osilla, K, Stern, SA. Prevention and Intervention in the School Setting. In Sher, KJ, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders, Volume 2*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2016: 675-723.

How does this affect waste management?



What do most people do with their unused meds?

- Flushing down the toilet
- Throwing away in regular trash
- Keep them unlocked
- Keep them locked
- Safe disposal



*A visual of the dose of heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil needed to kill an average adult.
Photo courtesy of Paige Sutherland/NHPR*

Source: Prevention Resource Center 6, Regional Needs Assessment 2019, citing Carfentanil Fact Sheet by Leadership for a Safe & Secure Indiana, <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Carfentanil%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.



Potential Risk to Water Safety

- “Infectious outbreaks remain the most critical concern in low-income countries, while the chemical and pharmaceutical pollution is the major health risk in developing and high-income countries.”

Source: Koopaei, N and Abdollahi, M. Health risks associated with the pharmaceuticals in water. DARU Journal of Pharmaceutical Science. April 12, 2017.



Potential Risk to Water Safety

- Few systematic monitoring programs
- “The most appropriate approach to minimize the presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water and reduce human exposure is to **prevent or reduce their entry into the water** environment through a combination of **prevention measures**, including:
 - Increased **communication to the public** on rational use of pharmaceuticals and disposal of pharmaceuticals (e.g. avoid flushing drugs down the toilet)
 - **Education of prescribers**
 - Systematic **drug take-back** programs”

Source: World Health Organization. Pharmaceuticals in drinking water. 2012.



Local Solutions



Prescription Drug Drop Boxes


















In the last 5 years, BACODA prevention coalitions were able to:

1. Build local awareness and capacity for prescription drug abuse prevention
2. Develop community agreements with local law enforcement
3. Leverage federal and state funding streams such as the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR)
4. Install 16 permanent Rx Drop Boxes throughout our service area in local police departments

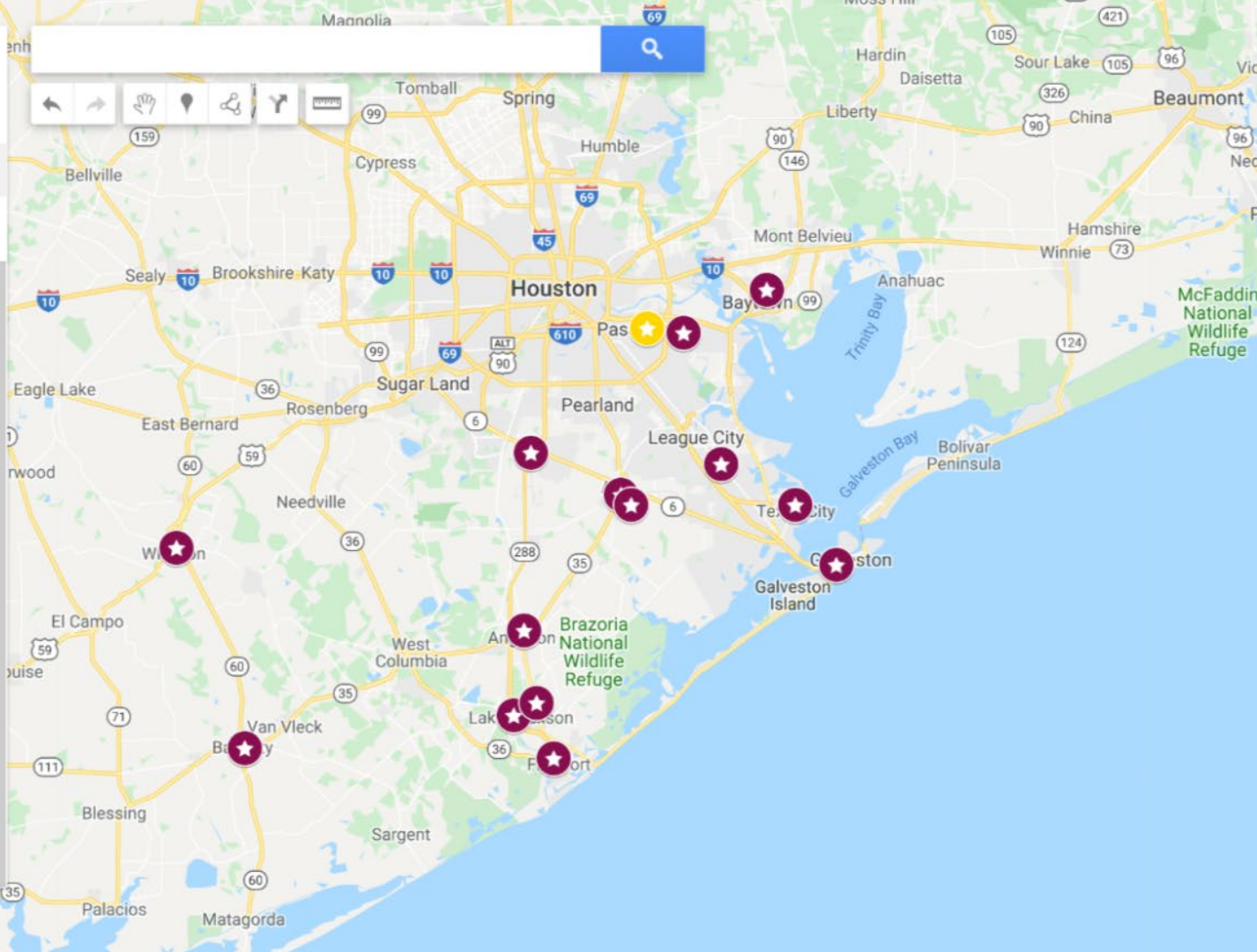
Rx Drop Boxes

All changes saved in Drive

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-  Baytown Police Department
-  Santa Fe Police Department
-  Texas City Police Department
-  Dickinson Police Department
-  Galveston Police Department
-  Deer Park Police Department
-  Wharton Police Department
-  Bay City Police Department
-  Alvin Police Department
-  Lake Jackson Police Depart...
-  Freeport Police Department
-  City of West Columbia - City ...
-  Angleton Police Department
-  Richwood Police Department
-  Hillcrest
-  Iowa Colony
-  Pasadena Police Department

 Base map



Other Safe Disposal

Deterra Disposable Pouches



Thank You

emily.dean@bacoda.org

