

1,400 Pounds of Medication Collected in METRICH Drug Take-Back Event

More than 1,400 pounds of unused or expired prescription medications were collected across North Central Ohio during the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 26, 2025, according to the METRICH Enforcement Unit.

The initiative, spearheaded by METRICH, involved law enforcement agencies from Richland County and surrounding areas. Participating agencies included the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Shelby Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Plymouth Police Department, Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY), Richland County Solid Waste Authority, Richland Public Health, and the Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board.

Lt. Steve Blust said community participation and commitment by all law enforcement agencies in the METRICH region was key to the success of the event.

Collection totals for Richland County agencies were:

- Lexington Police Department: 42 pounds
- Mansfield Police Department: 16 pounds
- Plymouth Police Department: 4 pounds
- Richland County Sheriff's Office: 24.9 pounds
- Shelby Police Department: 18 pounds

Totals for other counties included:

- Ashland County: 180 pounds
- Crawford County: 329.2 pounds
- Hancock County: 69.6 pounds
- Huron County: 194.4 pounds
- Knox County: 164.6 pounds
- Marion County: 209 pounds
- Morrow County: 123.72 pounds
- Seneca County: 105.18 pounds
- Wyandot County: 101.5 pounds

METRICH, a ten-county decentralized drug task force, aims to enhance public safety by proactively enforcing drug laws, reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons, and improving the quality of life for residents in its coverage area

The annual take back event is intended to remove potentially dangerous medications from homes and prevent environmental harm from improper disposal.

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