



**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation
State of California Home-Generated
Sharps Waste
2023 Annual Report

Reporting Period: 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023

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I. Contact Information

14 CCR section 18973.5(a): Contact information pursuant to section 18973.3(a) including any changes or updates to this information.

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Email Address: Lee.Smith@takebackfoundation.org
Foundation Organizational Website: <https://www.takebackfoundation.org/>
Program Website: www.sharpstakebackcalifornia.org

Primary contacts for the Foundation have not changed in the Reporting Period.

¹ The Program website at www.sharpstakebackcalifornia.org is a jointly operated, neutrally branded website and became operational in October 2023. Prior to October 2023, the Program website was www.safemedicinedrop.com.

II. Executive Summary

14 CCR section 18973.5(b): Executive Summary. A concise summary of the information contained in the Report that includes, but is not limited to, the highlights, outcomes and challenges, education and outreach efforts, and ways in which challenges are being addressed.

The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation (“Foundation”) operates a Stewardship Plan for Home-Generated Sharps Waste (“Plan”) under Chapter 2 (commencing with section 42030), Part 3, Division 30 of the California Public Resources Code, and the California Code of Regulations (“CCR”) Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 11, Article 4, (the “Regulation”) (collectively the “Drug Take-Back Laws”). The Director of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (“CalRecycle”) approved the Foundation’s Plan on December 20, 2022.

Pursuant to PRC section 42033.2(a)(1) and 14 CCR section 18973.5, this Annual Report (“Report”) for Home-Generated Sharps Waste summarizes the operational activities between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023 (“Reporting Period”). All capitalized terms not defined in this Report are the same as those used in The Foundation’s approved Plan dated October 15, 2022.

The Foundation continued to implement its Plan during the Reporting Period. The Foundation focused heavily during the Reporting Period on increasing the number of Point of Sale Locations providing or initiating Mail-Back Units to Ultimate Users. The Foundation conducted outreach efforts to potential Point of Sale Locations that included telephone calls, emails, letters, and in-person visits. The Foundation increased the number of Point of Sale Locations that distribute Mail-Back Units by 83 locations, as described in “Section III. Collection System” of this Report. Additionally, the Foundation also distributed Mail-Back Units to Ultimate Users by placing Mail-Back Units in county offices and health departments, household hazardous waste facilities, continuum of care organizations, homeless shelters, and other community organizations deeply rooted in California communities, and some of which provide care to historically underserved communities.

Challenges faced include that certain Point of Sale Locations told the Foundation they are not required to participate, do not have space to store Mail-Back Units, and have concerns regarding personnel constraints related to initiating the ordering of Mail-Back Units for Ultimate Users. Accordingly, the Foundation continues its efforts to overcome these challenges through education and outreach activities to Point of Sale Locations, as described in this Report, to achieve increased participation.

The Foundation also expanded the geographic spread of the Sharps Take-Back Program (“Program”) by distributing Mail-Back Units in 50 of the 54 participating counties, though the

distribution of some Mail-Back Units did not occur until 2024. The Foundation continues its efforts in rural counties that have not requested Mail-Back Units (Alpine, Colusa, Mono, Sierra) through outreach and education to potential Point of Sale Locations in those counties.

The Foundation continued its outreach and marketing efforts to provide Ultimate Users with information on how to order Mail-Back Units through the website or toll-free number, resulting in a month-over-month average increase of 4 - 5% in Mail-Back Unit orders. During the Reporting Period, the Foundation implemented multiple marketing campaigns via social media, direct mail, newspaper campaigns, digital billboards, a cross-device media campaign, and a targeted audio campaign, all of which are outlined in detail in *"Section X. Educational Efforts and Public Outreach."*

The Foundation received 32,711 requests for Mail-Back Units via all ordering mechanisms and distributed 32,088 Mail-Back Units. The difference between the number of Mail-Back Unit requests and the number distributed is because Mail-Back Units requested with less than five business days left in the Reporting Period were distributed in 2024. Mail-Back Units distributed in 2024 will be reflected in the 2024 Annual Report.

The Foundation destroyed 2,196 Mail-Back Units, totaling 3,180.97 pounds of Sharps. Fewer Mail-Back Units were destroyed than distributed because there is a delay between the date the Ultimate User receives the Mail-Back Unit and the date it is returned for destruction. The detailed accounting of Mail-Back Unit distribution and destruction can be found in *"Section III. A. Opportunity to Dispose and Distribution of Mail-Back Units."*

The Foundation coordinated with the other Program Operator to initiate the jointly operated toll-free number and neutrally branded website for Ultimate Users to request Mail-Back Units. The toll-free number and website went live on October 26, 2023.

III. Collection System

14 CCR section 18973.5(c)(1) Describe how ultimate users had an opportunity to dispose of their home-generated sharps waste as described in the approved stewardship plan.

In accordance with the approved Plan, the Foundation provided Ultimate Users with Mail-Back Units for in-scope purchases of covered products at no cost to the Ultimate User. Mail-Back Units were either distributed directly to the Ultimate User at the Point of Sale or were initiated at the Point of Sale for arrival to the Ultimate User within five (5) business days. Ultimate Users also

had the option to order Mail-Back Units via website and/or toll-free number.²

A. Opportunity to Dispose and Distribution of Mail-Back Units

14 CCR section 18973.5(c)(2) Amount of sharps waste containers and mail-back materials distributed as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(6), per county, through each of the following methods:

- (A) Provided at point of sale*
- (B) Initiated at point of sale*
- (C) Website requests*
- (D) Toll-free telephone number requests*

During the Reporting Period, the Foundation increased the number of Point of Sale Locations that distribute Mail-Back Units by 83 locations, bringing the total number enrolled to 203 locations across the State. The number of Mail-Back Units distributed in each county, by distribution method, is provided in “Attachment C: Mail-Back Unit Distribution by County.”

The Foundation distributed Mail-Back Units through four different methods:

1. Distributed at Point of Sale

During the Reporting Period, the Foundation completed the enrollment of 83 new Point of Sale Locations, bringing the total to 203 Point of Sale Locations. Enrollment as a Point of Sale Location under the Foundation’s Program includes access to an ordering portal, written instructions on how to use the ordering portal, and written instructions for keeping Mail-Back Units on-site for distribution to Ultimate Users in quantities appropriate for in-scope purchases. Enrolled Point of Sale Locations are provided with the opportunity to place an initial order of up to four cases of 24 Mail-Back Units (for a total of 96 units per order) and the ability to place subsequent orders as frequently as needed, with no restrictions on the number of Mail-Back Units that may be ordered at one time. Thus, Point of Sale Locations are able to order the appropriate volume needed to distribute Mail-Back Units to the Ultimate Users they serve. The Foundation provided 20,472 Mail-Back Units to 104³ Point of Sale Locations to distribute to Ultimate Users. The

² Ultimate Users could order Mail-Back Units from the Foundation’s website (www.safemedicinedrop.com) and toll-free number (1-888-371-0717) during the Reporting Period until October 26, 2023, at which point the neutrally branded, jointly-operated website (www.medtakebackcalifornia.org) and toll-free number (1-844-482-5322) became active. The Foundation’s website began redirecting to the jointly-operated website on October 26, 2023.

³ CalRecycle’s Notice Regarding Disapproval of The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation’s 2023

remaining 99 Point of Sale Locations enrolled by the Foundation have the ability to order Mail-Back Units for on-site for distribution to Ultimate Users but did not place any orders during the Reporting Period.

During the Reporting Period, the Foundation did not have a mechanism for tracking the number of Mail-Back Units distributed to Ultimate Users at Point of Sale Locations. The only available metric was the number of Mail-Back Units provided to Point of Sale locations and returned from Ultimate Users. The Foundation intends to implement a survey for enrolled Point of Sale Locations to report on this metric at intervals prescribed by the Foundation in order to capture this metric for future reporting.

2. Initiated at Point of Sale Locations

Enrolled Point of Sale Locations are provided with a direct link to the Foundation's website, www.safemedicinedrop.com/mailback-casharps⁴, to initiate an order on behalf of the Ultimate User for in-scope purchases, to be shipped to the Ultimate User's home within 5 business days of the order. Enrolled Point of Sale Locations are not accessing the neutrally-branded, jointly operated Program website to order Mail-Back Units on behalf of Ultimate Users.⁵ The initiation of orders on behalf of the Ultimate User is offered as an alternative if Ultimate Users do not want a Mail-Back Unit distributed to them at

Annual Report for Home-Generated Sharps Waste dated July 29, 2024, ("Notice") item #2, requested the Foundation to include the number of Point of Sale Locations that initiated the distribution of sharps waste containers and Mail-Back materials to Ultimate Users.

⁴ In the Foundation's annual report submitted March 29, 2024, the incorrect website was initially provided in error. Point of Sale Locations are not provided with the jointly-operated website to request Mail-Back Units on behalf of Ultimate Users. Rather, they are provided a direct link to the Foundation's website, www.safemedicinedrop.com/mailback-casharps. This prevents Point of Sale Locations from being redirected to the joint website and ensures that all Point of Sale Locations enrolled in Inmar's Program are only being serviced by the Foundation and not the other Program Operator.

⁵ CalRecycle's Notice, item #3, requested the Foundation to describe how the Foundation tracked each instance when a Point of Sale Location initiated the distribution of a sharps waste container and Mail-Back materials to Ultimate Users. Enrolled Point of Sale Locations are always provided with a link directly to the Foundation's website (www.safemedicinedrop.com/mailback-casharps) and do not access the jointly-operated Program website where they would be redirected to MED-Project half of the time for the ordering of Mail-Back Units. As such, the Foundation is able to track all orders from enrolled Point of Sale Locations.

the Point of Sale.

Mail-Back Units ordered on behalf of the Ultimate User can be ordered in quantities of three per form submission. However, if Ultimate Users require more Mail-Back Units, the initiating Point of Sale Location can submit the form as many times as needed to obtain the quantity of Mail-Back Units necessary to accommodate the Ultimate User's sharps usage without any limits on the number of form submissions. There were 277 Mail-Back Unit orders initiated on behalf of Ultimate Users across 69⁶ Point of Sale Locations. The remaining 134 Point of Sale Locations enrolled by the Foundation have the ability to initiate an order of Mail-Back Units for the Ultimate User but did not initiate any orders during the Reporting Period.

3. Website and Toll-Free Number

Ultimate Users are also given the option to order Mail-Back Units directly from the Program website (www.sharpstakebackcalifornia.org) or the toll-free number (844-482-5322) in quantities sufficient to dispose of their in-scope purchase. There were 11,419 Mail-Back Units requested via the Program website and 543 Mail-Back Units requested via the toll-free number.⁷

4. Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

The Foundation contacted over 400 Household Hazardous Waste ("HHW") facilities via direct mail, letters, and email providing Program information on distributing Mail-Back Units. The Foundation offered the HHW sites the opportunity to provide FDA-cleared Mail-Back Units to Ultimate Users as well as offered reimbursement for the transportation and destruction costs of Home-Generated Sharps Waste per §18973.3(g)(1) and §18973.3(g)(2). The outreach to HHW facilities garnered

⁶ CalRecycle's Notice, item #2, requested the Foundation to include the number of Point of Sale Locations that initiated the distribution of sharps waste containers and Mail-Back materials to Ultimate Users.

⁷ These numbers represent orders submitted on the Foundation's website and phone number prior to launching the jointly-operated website and phone number, plus the Foundation's half of orders placed through the jointly-operated website and phone number beginning on October 26, 2023. Because the jointly-operated website and phone number rotate between directing Ultimate Users to order from the Foundation and the other Program Operator, some Mail-Back Units that were requested through the jointly-operated website and phone number are not reflected in the values here, but would instead be reflected in the values provided in the other Program Operator's Annual Report.

approximately 20 unique requests: 5 for additional information and 15 for reimbursement. A list of all reimbursement requests is provided in “Section XIV: Local Agency Requests.”

Also, the Foundation successfully solicited HHW facilities to participate as Mail-Back Distribution Sites by providing Ultimate Users with Mail-Back Units when they come to drop off Home-Generated Sharps Waste. The data associated with these sites is included in “Attachment C: Mail-Back Unit Distribution by County.”

B. Return of Home-Generated Sharps Waste

14 CCR section 18973.5(c)(3) Amount of home-generated sharps waste returned through the mail-back program, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(6).

During the Reporting Period, the Foundation received 2,196 Mail-Back Unit returns, equating to 3,180.97 pounds of Home-Generated Sharps Waste destroyed.

C. Supplemental Collection Method(s) for Home-Generated Sharps Waste

14 CCR section 18973.5(c)(4) Supplemental collection method(s) of home-generated sharps waste that were provided in addition to, but not in lieu of, the mail-back program, pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(5). Include a list of dates and locations of take-back events that occurred pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(5)(B), if applicable

14 CCR section 18973.5(c)(5) If applicable, amount of home-generated sharps waste collected through supplemental collection method(s), as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(7)

The Foundation did not participate in any supplemental collection methods during the Reporting Period.

IV. Transporters and Disposal Facilities

14 CCR section 18973.5 (d) Transportation and Disposal. Descriptions of the methods used to transport and dispose of consolidated home-generated sharps waste, including the following:

- (1) Mechanism(s) used to track the collection, transportation, and disposal of home-generated sharps waste*
- (2) Name and mailing address of each service provider used to transport or process home-generated sharps waste*

(3) For each disposal facility, include the following:

(A) Name of facility

(B) Mailing and physical address

(C) Total weight of material disposed

Each Mail-Back Unit is tracked via its serialized barcode imprinted on the outside of each Unit. All Mail-Back Units were tracked and transported per the approved Plan. All returned Mail-Back Units are transported, via USPS, directly to a Plan-approved Service Provider and handled in accordance with applicable legal requirements. The receiving Service Provider records all metrics including: date received, serialized barcode label information, USPS shipping tracking number, weight and date transported to disposal facility, disposal date, and manifest number (if applicable). All information recorded is transmitted to the Program Operator daily for tracking of each Mail-Back Unit returned.

The Foundation was notified by their Service Provider that one additional disposal facility, Covanta - Hayward / Biologic Environmental Services & Waste Solutions, was used to treat waste during the Reporting Period.⁸ The list of disposal facilities provided for the Annual Reporting period reflected this facility.

A list of Transporters and Disposal Facilities is included at *Attachment A: Service Providers and Disposal Facilities*.

V. Policies and Procedures

14 CCR section 18973.5(e). Pursuant to subdivision (b)(6) of section 42033.2 of the Public Resources Code, provide the following:

(1) Description of whether policies and procedures for collecting, transporting, and disposing of home-generated sharps waste, as established in the stewardship plan, were followed during the Reporting Period

(2) Description of each instance of noncompliance from stewardship plan policies and procedures, if any occurred

(3) Corrective actions taken, or that will be taken, if the program operator discovered critical instances of noncompliance with stewardship plan policies and procedures

⁸ The Foundation maintains no new Service Providers were added or changed during the Reporting Period. Rather, our Service Provider utilized their contracted destruction facilities which were included on the Foundation's provided list of destruction facilities. The Foundation does not control the selection of disposal facilities by the Service Provider. However, in accordance with the Drug Take-Back Statute, the Foundation notifies CalRecycle of any changes made by our Service Providers in additions or reductions to contracted destruction facilities upon the Foundation's receipt of notice from its Service Providers.

Policies and procedures for collecting, transporting, and disposing of Home-Generated Sharps Waste as established in the Plan were followed. There were no instances of noncompliance; therefore, no corrective actions were taken.

VI. Description of Updates

14 CCR section 18973.5(f) Description of updates, that have been made or will be made, to the processes and policies followed to safely and securely collect, track, and properly manage home-generated sharps waste from collection through final disposal

No changes were made to the processes and policies followed to safely and securely collect, track, and manage Home-Generated Sharps Waste from collection through final disposal.

The Foundation received feedback from Ultimate Users that the current sharps container may be too small for some sharps. The Foundation will work collaboratively with CalRecycle to implement the distribution of a larger Sharps Waste Container, 1.5 quart, with a wider lid opening to accommodate larger sharps.

VII. Ordinance Repeal

14 CCR section 18973.5(g): Pursuant to subdivision (e) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code, description of processes, logistics, and timing of implementation that will be necessary for the stewardship program to expand into jurisdictions not previously included in the stewardship plan, in the event of the repeal of a local stewardship program ordinance.

There were no local stewardship program ordinances repealed in the state of California during the Reporting Period, so it was not necessary for the Foundation to expand into jurisdictions not previously included.

VIII. Safety or Security Concerns

14 CCR section 18973.5(h) Safety and Security. Describe the general nature of any incidents with safety or security related to collection, transportation, or disposal of home-generated sharps waste. Explain the corrective actions taken or that will be taken to address the issue and improve safety and security.

There were no safety or security concerns for the Reporting Period, and therefore no corrective actions needed.

IX. Educational Efforts and Public Outreach

14 CCR section 18973.5(i) Education and Outreach. Description and evaluation of the comprehensive education and outreach activities pursuant to section 18973.3(i), including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Electronic examples of promotional marketing materials

(2) Numerical results of the education and outreach metrics outlined in the stewardship plan, pursuant to section 18973.3(i)(5)

(3) A discussion of what the metrics, described above in section 18973.5(i)(2), reveal about the performance of the comprehensive education and outreach program, including, but not limited to, ultimate user awareness, program usage, and accessibility

(4) Description of how the requirement in section 42031.6(b) of the Public Resources Code was met

The Foundation provided educational materials in accordance with the approved Plan, Section VIII, to Point of Sale Locations participating in the Program. The Foundation also provided materials, upon request, to persons authorized to prescribe drugs, hospitals, pharmacies, pharmacists, and Ultimate Users.

The educational materials were intended to educate the Point of Sale Locations on Program participation, general Program information, ordering instructions and information about providing the number of Mail-Back Units required to accommodate Ultimate Users for their in-scope purchase of covered products.

Educational materials provided to Ultimate Users included how to locate and order Mail-Back Units, general Program information, education on the implications of improper Sharps disposal, and guidance on the separation of Covered Products from non-Covered Products.

Sample educational and promotional material can be found in *Appendix A Figure 1*. Samples are provided in English and Spanish, but all educational and promotional documents are produced in accordance with the languages outlined in the Foundation's approved Plan (Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese).

The Foundation implemented the following educational efforts and public outreach:

- Programmatic Advertising
 - Provides targeted display ads on browser sites on internet capable devices (smart phones, computers, tablets, etc.).
 - The Foundation ran ads across a prequalified list of over 200,000 domains including a variety of retail websites, Google, and Facebook.
 - Ads ran for six weeks, the first in April and the second in October.
 - There were a total of 637,106 impressions from both advertisements. Impression metrics are reported directly from the individual websites on which the ads are

placed and are reported on a per campaign basis. See *Table 1 in Appendix A* for reported metrics.

- **Influencer Programs**
 - Influencer marketing is a content creation tactic used to drive awareness and education on the Home-Generated Sharps Take-Back Program to a targeted audience through blogs and social media outlets.
 - Influencer content is converted into paid ad units across social platforms and then targeted to community members across the state of California.
 - Paid advertisements for influencer content were run on a variety of platforms including Google, Instagram and Facebook, driving towards a specified impression goal.
 - Social Media posts were run on three different social media platforms (X, Facebook, and Instagram) twice monthly for a total of 24 posts and 286 impressions.
 - The Foundation ran several social media influencer campaigns concurrently with other traditional and digital media campaigns. Digital campaigns yielded 3,442,693 impressions. The dates and results of each campaign are listed in *Appendix A Table 1*.

- **Direct Mail Campaigns**
 - The Foundation sends an average of 400,000 direct mail postcards twice annually, April 2023 and December 2023, directly to Ultimate Users' homes, as well as to continuum of care organizations and homeless shelters throughout the state of California.
 - These campaigns were used as a means of reaching historically underserved and rural communities which may lack access to computers and the internet, as well as reported low income, racial and ethnic minorities, and other health related disparities.
 - After each direct mail campaign, The Foundation has adjusted the targeted homes for counties having limited disposal options.
 - The Foundation also uses the reported zip codes from the direct mail campaign to shift focus more heavily on underserved areas and areas that have lower volume of Mail-Back Unit requests.
 - A copy of the direct mail postcard can be found in *Appendix A Figures 2 and 3*. The total number of direct mail postcards along with the corresponding dates can be found in *Appendix A Table 1*.

- Newspaper Advertisements
 - The Foundation utilized three different newspapers to target the three most densely populated areas in California. There was one advertisement in each newspaper on Sundays from December 10, 2023, through December 31, 2023, for three total insertions per newspaper, as Sundays have the highest circulation. The Foundation intentionally skipped the Sunday insertions during Holiday weekends due to changes in priorities and work schedules. Newspapers included:
 - The Sacramento Bee, covering Sacramento County, circulates 56,031 newspapers every Sunday, resulting in 168,093 impressions.
 - The LA Times, covering Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, and Ventura County, circulates 481,547 newspapers every Sunday, resulting in 1,444,641 impressions.
 - The San Diego Union Tribune, covering San Diego County, circulates 137,138 newspapers each Sunday, resulting in 411,414 total impressions.

Together, the three newspapers garnered a total of 2,024,148 impressions, meaning that 2,024,148 readers were served the advertisement. A breakdown of the circulation and total impressions can be seen in *Appendix A Table 2*. Examples of newspaper excerpts can be found in *Appendix A Figures 4, 5 and 6*. The newspaper digital advertisement can be found in *Appendix A Figure 9*. This campaign is ongoing and will continue through early 2024.

- Targeted media
 - Cross device display: The Foundation uses contextual targeting and advertising by targeting users based on categories allowing us to reach users as they are actively consuming relevant content such as Drug Safety, Local News, and Healthy Living. This is done by placing media on pages adjacent to content containing specific keywords such as “Consumer Drug Takeback,” “prescription drug disposal,” pharmacy services, medication disposal services, and medication disposal locations.
 - The cross-device display targeted media campaign started on November 27, 2023, and ran through December 31, 2023.
 - This campaign is ongoing and will continue through early 2024.
 - The click through rate is 0.15%, which is well above the industry benchmark click through rate of 0.08% – 0.10%. The most successful tactic deployed was Retargeting (where users who click on the advertisement

- are served the ad more frequently), with a click through rate of 0.5%, five times higher than the industry benchmark.
- The second most successful targeted media tactic deployed was behavioral targeting (where users are served the advertisement based on where they are visiting online, such as health related websites). Users were served the advertisement on average 2.5 times and total impressions were 1,325,049.
 - Once it identified these trends, the Foundation refocused efforts to serve targeted media through the two highest targeted media methods, retargeting and behavioral targeting. An example of the cross-device display advertisement can be found in *Appendix A Figure 7*.
- Audio: The Foundation utilized targeted audio via streaming platforms such as Spotify, Pandora, TouchTunes, iHeartRadio, PodcastOne, SoundCloud, TuneIn and more. Some of these streaming platforms also incorporate local radio streaming options.
 - Audiences are targeted behaviorally (similar to methods used in cross-device display tactics), as users that stream genres such as medical drugs, prescription drugs, medical services, health, science and medicine are served the advertisements.
 - The targeted audio campaign started on November 27, 2023, and ran through December 31, 2023.
 - Success is measured in terms of audio completion, meaning the listener completes listening to the advertisement. Audio completion rate for targeted audio advertisements was 99%, meeting the high end of the industry benchmark, meaning 99% of listeners listened to the entire advertisement. On average, listeners heard the advertisement 3.3 times and total impressions were 124,045.
 - This campaign is ongoing and will continue through early 2024.
 - Digital out-of-home advertisements: The Foundation utilized digital billboards and other digital advertising platforms outside of the home around high-traffic areas and high-traffic times of the day to reach audiences at the most impactful moments in their day.
 - These advertisements reach on-the-go Ultimate Users across different digital out-of-home media.
 - The digital out-of-home campaign started on November 27, 2023, and ran through December 31, 2023.

- The digital billboard advertisements were served at movie theaters, sports venues, gyms, office buildings, and most effectively on gas station TVs, which garnered the highest number of impressions.
- The total number of impressions across all the digital out-of-home advertising platforms was 172,086.
- This campaign is ongoing and will continue through early 2024. An example of the digital billboard advertisement can be found in *Appendix A, Figure 8*.

The Foundation continuously analyzes our marketing data to identify the location of low volume Mail-Back Unit requests. This data is particularly important in identifying rural and historically underserved populations and counties, enabling the Foundation to better target marketing efforts to those populations that may need more information and education on the Home-Generated Sharps Disposal Program.

The direct mail campaign was the most successful outreach activity in increasing Ultimate User engagement as demonstrated:

- Data was analyzed immediately prior to the beginning of the campaign and one month after the campaign ended.
- From January to April, approximately 1,500 Mail-Back Units were shipped per month. The month of May yielded 5,110 Mail-Back Units shipped. From June until December 31, 2023, there were 3,626 Mail-Back Units shipped per month.
- Overall, the direct mail campaign resulted in a 142% increase in Mail-Back Units ordered, increasing the average number of Mail-Back Units ordered each month of the Reporting Period by 4-5%.

Table 1 in Appendix A provides a high-level overview of the outreach activities performed.

Annual Survey

In accordance with the Plan, the Foundation completed surveys to assess the convenience and accessibility of the methods for collecting Home-Generated Sharps Waste, and to assess knowledge and attitudes regarding the risks of Home-Generated Sharps Waste, such as potential injury and spread of disease from improperly storing and improperly discarding or abandoning such waste. The Foundation designed survey questions to evaluate the effectiveness of different messaging for raising awareness of the Stewardship Program and for increasing knowledge of or changing attitudes towards risks posed by improper storage or disposal of Home-Generated Sharps Waste.

The Foundation conducted two surveys through Pollfish, the survey administrator, of: (i) 500 healthcare providers including doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, dentists, and other healthcare professionals that interact with Ultimate Users⁹, and (ii) 1,000 Ultimate Users. Pollfish's survey methodology uses randomized delivery and a mobile-optimized user experience to send in-app invitations to potential participants while they are naturally engaged on their devices.

Pollfish advertised and distributed the survey through over 120,000 partnered applications and websites such as social media, weather, and news applications, to have a broad reach. The survey was provided to Ultimate Users and healthcare providers through the partnered applications they already utilize, which provides reflexive, immediate responses directly from targeted samples of Ultimate Users and healthcare providers without disrupting their mobile experience or creating a biased atmosphere.

The survey uses a double opt-in to avoid pitfalls, such as sampling from the wrong pool of participants, meaning the potential participants must confirm their interest in the survey twice: by starting the survey and again before completing it. Pollfish collects demographic information, such as profession (to identify healthcare providers) and age (to filter out Ultimate Users under 18). If the potential participants fit the survey criteria, they join a participant pool where they are invited to take the survey.

The full survey and results can be found in *Appendix C - Surveys*.

Discussion

Through its interpretation of the survey results, the Foundation identified two major areas in which efforts need to be focused to expand awareness of the Program: (1) the implications of improper disposal, and (2) that the Mail-Back Program is a safe way to dispose of Home-Generated Sharps Waste.

⁹ CalRecycle's Notice, item #6, requests that the Foundation explain whether Ultimate Users and providers were surveyed.

First, the Foundation should educate providers and Ultimate Users on the implications of improper disposal. The Foundation is executing this by updating promotional materials and campaigns to more explicitly state the risks of improper disposal and methods of safe disposal. The Foundation found that this is an important topic on which to focus its efforts because nearly 40% of providers responded in the survey that it is safe to flush sharps down the toilet, and 30% responded that throwing sharps in the trash is safe. Providers are a trusted source of information. The Foundation plans to target more healthcare providers with outreach via a direct mail campaign to healthcare provider offices to increase education and encourage conversations between providers and their patients regarding sharps disposal.

Second, the Foundation should increase efforts in educating Ultimate Users that the Mail-Back Program is a safe way to dispose of Home-Generated Sharps Waste. In survey responses, only 67% of Ultimate Users and 41% of providers stated that using Mail-Back materials is a safe method of disposal. The Foundation plans to educate providers and Ultimate Users on the Program's Mail-Back offerings via direct mail campaigns, and explicitly state that Mail-Back materials are a safe method of disposal.

Moving forward, the Foundation plans to increase awareness for both providers and Ultimate Users by utilizing what the Foundation learned during each Reporting Period. For example, the Foundation will start each year's media campaign by implementing the most successful campaigns identified in the previous Reporting Period. For example, the 2023 Reporting Period results showed for digital targeted media, the retargeting and behavioral tactics (described in section 'Targeted Media', 'Cross Device Display') yielded the highest click through rate and impressions. Given this information, the Foundation plans to focus efforts on retargeting and behavioral targeting when utilizing cross device display in the next Reporting Period. Also, as we found in this Reporting Period, the direct mail campaign continues to demonstrate success by increasing awareness, which then results in a higher number of Mailers requested.

The Foundation intends to do an additional survey in November 2024, one full year after the first survey, to identify changes in knowledge, awareness, and attitudes.

In accordance with PRC section 42031.6(b), the Foundation ensured that all education and outreach material was consistent with services offered to Ultimate Users during the Reporting Period.

X. List of Participating Covered Entities

PRC 42033.2(b)(1): An Annual Report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall include, at a minimum, all of the following for the prior year: A list of covered entities participating in the stewardship organization. 14 CCR section 18973.5(j) Covered Entities. Participating covered entities covered by the stewardship plan and their contact information, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Name of covered entity*
- (2) Mailing and physical address*
- (3) Contact name and title*
- (4) Email address*

A list of participating Covered Entities can be found in *Attachment B: Covered Entities and Covered Products – Sharps*.

XI. Covered Products

14 CCR section 18973.5 (k) A copy of the list of covered products submitted to the Board of Pharmacy pursuant to subsection (2) of subdivision (a) of section 42031 of the Public Resources Code.

A list of Covered Products can be found in *Attachment B: Covered Entities and Covered Products – Sharps*.

XII. Service Provider Selection Process

14 CCR section 18973.5 (l) Description and evaluation of the process for selecting service providers, if applicable.

The Foundation has not added or changed any Service Providers for the Reporting Period.

XIII. Incentives

14 CCR section 18973.5(m) Description of any grants, loans, sponsorships, reimbursements, or other incentives provided, as applicable.

There were no grants, loans, sponsorships, reimbursements, or other incentives provided during the Reporting Period, other than reimbursements provided to local agencies for transportation and disposal costs as described in Section XVI.

XIV. Staffing Changes

14 CCR section 18973.5 (n) Description of changes in staffing of the stewardship program.

There were no staffing changes in the Stewardship Program during the Reporting Period.

XV. Coordination Efforts

14 CCR section 18973.5 (o) Description of how the program operator coordinated with other program operators to avoid confusion to the public and all program participants in the event that multiple stewardship programs for home-generated sharps waste are in operation concurrently or new stewardship programs begin operating.

The Foundation communicated regularly with the other Program Operator regarding coordination efforts during the Reporting Period.

An agreement was signed between each Program Operator and a third-party vendor on March 3, 2023, and work began April 12, 2023, on the jointly operated toll-free number and neutrally branded website. Implementation of the jointly operated toll-free number and neutrally branded website was completed on October 26, 2023. The neutrally branded website is www.sharpstakebackcalifornia.org, and the jointly operated toll-free number is 844-482-5322. They offer all required language options, live human operators and translators (toll-free number), Google translate languages (website), information on accepted products, and links to social media as outlined in the Plan. The website is neutrally branded by utilizing an agreed upon logo created for the website.

The toll-free number was created for Ultimate Users to call and inquire about locations to dispose of Home-Generated Sharps, request that Mail-Back Units be mailed directly to the Ultimate User, and to access other Program information including educational materials. The neutrally branded website serves as a single source of information for Ultimate Users. The neutrally branded website allows Ultimate Users to order Mail-Back Units, view Program information, educational information, and other Program advocacy. The Foundation and the other Program Operator will each distribute 50% of the Mail-Back Units via a rotating button that directs Ultimate Users to each Program Operator every other time.

Both Program Operators agree to meet immediately to discuss any confusion experienced by Ultimate Users or Program participants. Program Operators agree to take action to address any confusion.

XVI. Local Agency Requests

14 CCR section 18973.5(p) For each local agency that has requested removal or reimbursement, pursuant to the requirements in subsection (1)(F)(ii) of subdivision (d) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code, provide details including, but not limited to:

(1) Name of local agency, or agent acting on behalf of the local agency.

(2) For each household hazardous waste facility:

(A) Facility location

(B) Reimbursement payment amount, as applicable

(C) Amount of home-generated sharps waste collected, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.3(f)(8)

(3) Any requests that were rejected and the reason(s) each request was rejected.

(4) Any requests where response, removal, or reimbursement was performed outside of the timelines specified in section 18973.3(g)(2).

The Foundation received 15 local agency requests during the Reporting Period. The Foundation accepted all requests and processed reimbursement, which does include expenses for transportation and destruction of Home-Generated Sharps Waste¹⁰, within the timelines specified in 14 CCR section 18973.3(g)(2). The local agency requests, reimbursement amounts, and corresponding destroyed sharps waste poundage is listed in the table below. To date, the Foundation has not received any requests for removal of Home-Generated Sharps Waste, but the Foundation would consider and report requests for removal if the Foundation received such requests.

Local Agency Requests During the Reporting Period

Request Date	Name	Location	Reimbursement	Collected (Lbs)	Accepted/ Rejected
1/19/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 356.00	163	Accepted
1/20/2023	Thousand Oaks HHW	2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Thousand Oaks, CA 91362	\$ 3,825.00	1507	Accepted
2/16/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 314.00	235	Accepted
3/16/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 372.00	256	Accepted
4/13/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 372.00	263	Accepted
5/11/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 372.00	250	Accepted

¹⁰ CalRecycle's Notice, item #12, requests the Foundation to clarify whether the Foundation provided each local agency reimbursement for transportation and disposal costs of Home-Generated Sharps Waste, pursuant to 14 CCR sections 18973.3(g)(1) and 18973.5(p).

	Counties	Oroville CA 95965			
6/8/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 198.00	135	Accepted
7/6/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 198.00	112	Accepted
8/3/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 198.00	123	Accepted
8/31/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 314.00	195	Accepted
9/28/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 488.00	361	Accepted
10/26	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 546.00	456	Accepted
11/2/23	Upper Valley Waste Management Agency	1195 3rd Street, Suite 101 Napa, CA 94559	\$ 4,400.00	557	Accepted
11/27/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 372.00	276	Accepted
12/21/2023	Recology Butte Colusa Counties	PO Box 1512 Oroville CA 95965	\$ 314.00	206	Accepted
Total			\$ 12,639.00	5,095	

XVII. Expenses

14 CCR section 18973.5(q) A list of all actual expenses incurred during the previous Reporting Period. Expenses shall be summarized in accordance with the budget categories specified in section 18973.6(b).

The table below shows actual expenses during the Reporting Period.

Expense Category	Total Expense
Capital Expenses	\$ 0
Operational Costs	\$ 578,203.47
Education and Outreach	\$ 42,040.00
Administrative Costs	\$ 368,310.21
Grants, Loans, Sponsorships and Other Incentives	\$ 0 ¹¹
Departmental Administrative Fees	\$ 85,437.02 ¹²
Total Expenses for Reporting Period	\$ 988,553.68

¹¹ Reimbursements to local agencies for household hazardous waste transportation and disposal were included in the Operational Costs.

¹² In the Consideration of The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation's 2023 Annual Report for Home-Generated Sharps Waste ("RFA"), CalRecycle states that "The Foundation paid a total of \$551,352.56 for invoices regarding departmental administrative fees in 2023." However, the regulations require the annual report to "list all actual expenses incurred during the previous reporting period," not expenses paid. 14 CCR § 18973.5(q) (emphasis added). The figure above reflects actual expenses incurred in 2023 based on CalRecycle invoices provided to the Foundation in 2023, which were analyzed pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), to project remaining 2023 expenses incurred by the Foundation related to CalRecycle administrative fees. The reason the submitted expense for Departmental Administrative Fees in the Annual Report dated March 29, 2024 was \$0 was a human error and one that the Foundation will pay close attention to for future reporting to ensure it is not repeated.

XVIII. State Agency Determinations

14 CCR section 18973.5(r) State Agency Determinations pursuant to section 42032.2(d)(1)(B) of the Public Resources Code. Submit all agency determination(s) of compliance, noncompliance and superseding determinations of compliance, if any, for the Reporting Period.

The Foundation received the following State Agency Determinations during the Reporting Period. Copies of the determinations are provided in *Attachment D: State Agency Determinations*.

- **Program Budget**

- May 1, 2023 - CalRecycle's Completeness Determination of the Foundation's 2022 Annual Report and 2024 Annual Program Budget for Home-Generated Sharps Waste
- June 22, 2023 - CalRecycle's Completeness Determination of The Foundation's 2024 Annual Program Budget for Home-Generated Sharps Waste
- August 15, 2023 - Request for Action - Consideration of The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation's 2024 Annual Program Budget for Home-Generated Sharps Waste (CalRecycle Approval)

- **Annual Reporting**

- May 1, 2023 - CalRecycle's Completeness Determination of the Foundation's 2022 Annual Report and 2024 Annual Program Budget for Home-Generated Sharps Waste
- June 20, 2023 - Consideration of The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation's 2022 Annual Report for Home-Generated Sharps Waste (CalRecycle Disapproval)
- November 9, 2023 - Consideration of The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation's Revised 2022 Annual Report for Home-Generated Sharps Waste (CalRecycle Disapproval)

- **Noncompliance**

- March 14, 2023 - Notice of Violation for Noncompliance with the California Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Law Regarding the 2022 Annual Program Budget for Home-Generated Sharps
- August 11, 2023 - Notice of Violation for Noncompliance with the California Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Law Regarding the 2022 Annual Report for Home-Generated Sharps Waste
- November 6, 2023 - Notice of Violation of Public Resources Code (PRC) section 42034.2(a) for Non-Payment of Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Program Departmental Administrative Fee for Home-Generated Sharps Waste for October 2021 through March 2023 (Invoice #: 0000001518736)

XIX. Certification Statement

As required by 14 CCR section 18973(e), I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided in this document is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.



Chris Smith, R.Ph.
Foundation President
P.O. Box 997
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
Phone Number: (336) 631-7602
Email Address: Chris.Smith@takebackfoundation.org

Appendix A – Educational Materials, Outreach and Electronic Examples of Promotional Materials

2023					
Outreach Activity	Type of Media	Start Date	End Date	Impressions	Frequency
Social Media Posts	Digital Promotion	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	286	24
Influencer Media	Digital Promotion	3/4/2023	12/1/2023	3,442,693	4
Programmatic Media	Digital Promotion	4/10/2023	12/31/2023	637,106	2
Direct Mail Campaign	Direct Mail	4/1/2023	6/1/2023	550,008	1
Direct Mail Campaign	Direct Mail	12/1/2023	1/31/2024	353,828	1
Newspaper Advertisements	Print Ads	12/10/2023	12/31/2023	2,024,148	9
Cross Device Display	Targeted Digital Media	11/27/2023	12/31/2023	1,325,049	N/A
Advanced Audio	Targeted Audio Media	11/27/2023	12/31/2023	124,045	N/A
Digital Out of Home	Digital Billboards	11/27/2023	12/31/2023	172,086	N/A
Total Metrics	All	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	8,629,249	N/A

Table 1 – Outreach Activities During the Reporting Period

Newspaper	# Insertions	Circulation Per Insertion	Total Impressions
The Los Angeles Times	3	481,547	1,444,641
The San Diego Union Tribune	3	137,138	411,414
The Sacramento Bee	3	56,031	168,093
Total	9	674,716	2,024,148

Table 2 – Newspaper Outreach

SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS

Protect Your Families, Communities
and the Environment

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH USED OR UNWANTED SHARPS?

Choose safe disposal!
Check out these easy options.



MAIL-BACK



**LOCAL HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE FACILITY**

Go to sharpstakebackcalifornia.org
or call **(844) 482-5322** to learn more.



To find this material in
additional languages, scan this QR code.



**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**



WHY IS SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL IMPORTANT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH?

Proper disposal of
sharps saves lives
and protects the
environment.

- 43% of California's self injectors throw needles in the trash.
- In 2020, one million people reported abusing injectable drugs.
- Placing sharps in a trash bin can cause needlestick injuries and spread infectious diseases like HIV or hepatitis.

Figure 1 - Educational Brochure - Front



SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS

Protect Your Families, Communities
and the Environment

DISPOSAL OPTIONS



MAIL-BACK SERVICES

To request mail-back services for used or unwanted sharps, visit sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or call (844) 482-5322.



VISIT YOUR LOCAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

Go to sharpstakebackcalifornia.org
or call (844) 482-5322 to learn more.



**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

WHAT CAN YOU DISPOSE OF IN A SHARPS WASTE CONTAINER?



ACCEPTED:

Hypodermic, pen, and intravenous needles, lancets and other devices used to penetrate the skin.

NOT ACCEPTED:

Medical devices not used to penetrate the skin, herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, illegal drugs and pet pesticide products.



Figure 1 – Educational Brochure – Back



**SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDS
AND SHARPS IS FREE!**

**¡DESECHAR EN FORMA SEGURA
MEDICAMENTOS Y OBJETOS
PUNZOCORTANTES ES GRATUITO!**

Protect our families,
communities and
the environment

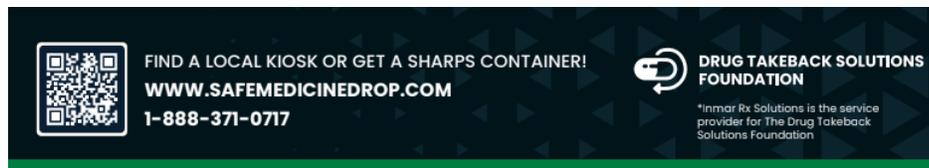


EVERY 5 MINUTES
an American dies of
an overdose*
*oda.gov

43% OF ALL
California self-injectors throw
needles in the trash, leading
to needlestick injuries.*
*ca.gov

47% OF PEOPLE
who misuse Rx pain meds
receive, buy or take them
from a loved one.*
*samhsa.gov

Figure 2 - Direct Mail Postcard - Front - English/Spanish (Prior to establishment of neutrally branded website and jointly operated toll-free number with the other Program Operator)



FIND A LOCAL KIOSK OR GET A SHARPS CONTAINER!
WWW.SAFEMEDICINEDROP.COM
1-888-371-0717

**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

*Inmar Rx Solutions is the service provider for The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation

HOW IT WORKS



Medication Disposal:

- 01 Pull drawer open**
Abra el cajón
- 02 Place medications inside**
Coloque los medicamentos en su interior
- 03 Close the drawer**
Cierre el cajón



Getting a Sharps Container:

- 01 Go to www.safemedicatedrop.com or scan QR code**
Visite www.safemedicatedrop.com o escanee el código QR
- 02 Enter zip code and select "California Sharps Program"**
Ingrese el código postal y seleccione "California Sharps Program" [Programa de objetos punzocortantes de California]
- 03 Enter info, select "user" and submit**
Ingrese la información, seleccione "user" [usuario] y envíe



For more information, or to find this material in additional languages, scan the above QR code to visit www.safemedicatedrop.com.

Figure 2 - Direct Mail Postcard - Back - English/Spanish (Prior to establishment of neutrally branded website and jointly operated toll-free number with other Program Operator)

**FIND A LOCAL KIOSK OR GET A SHARPS CONTAINER!
(844) 482-5322**



HOW IT WORKS



Medication Disposal:

- 01 Find a local kiosk at medtakebackcalifornia.org**
Encuentre una caseta local en medtakebackcalifornia.org
- 02 Pull drawer open**
Abra el cajón
- 03 Place medications inside**
Coloque los medicamentos en su interior
- 04 Close the drawer**
Cierre el cajón



Getting a Sharps Container:

- 01 Go to sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or scan QR code**
Encuentre una caseta local en sharpstakebackcalifornia.org
- 02 Click "Order A Sharps Mail-Back Package"**
Haga clic en "Solicite un paquete de devolución por correo de objetos punzocortantes"
- 03 Complete the request form**
Complete el formulario de solicitud



For more information, or to find this material in additional languages, scan the above QR code to visit medtakebackcalifornia.org.



For more information, or to find this material in additional languages, scan the above QR code to visit sharpstakebackcalifornia.org.

Figure 3 - Direct Mail Postcard - Back - English/Spanish (Once collaboration with the other Program Operator was complete. The front of the postcard remained the same as Figure 2 - Front)

Symbol of rebirth from fire tops Notre Dame in Paris

BY THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS

Notre Dame Cathedral got its rooster back Saturday, in a pivotal moment for the Paris landmark's restoration.

The installation by a crane of a new golden rooster, reimagined as a dramatic phoenix with licking, flamed feathers, goes beyond being just a weathervane atop the cathedral spire. It symbolizes resilience amid destruction after the devastating April 2019 fire — as restoration officials also revealed an anti-fire misting system is being kitted out under the cathedral's roof.

Chief architect Philippe Villeneuve, who designed this new rooster, stated that the original rooster's

survival signified a ray of light in the catastrophe.

"That there was hope, that not everything was lost. The beauty of the (old) battered rooster ... expressed the cry of the cathedral suffering in flames," Villeneuve said. He described the new work of art, approximately half a meter long and gleaming in the December sun behind Notre Dame Cathedral, as his "phoenix."

Villeneuve elaborated on the new rooster's significance, saying: "Since (the fire) we have worked on this rooster (the) successor, which sees the flame carried to the top of the cathedral as it was before, more than 96 meters from the ground ... It is a fire of resurrection."

In lighthearted comments, the architect said that the process of design



AP/WIDE WORLD

The new golden rooster containing religious relics is lifted by crane on Saturday to be installed atop the spire of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Architect Philippe Villeneuve described the new work of art, gleaming in the December sun, as his "phoenix."

was so intense he might have to speak to his therapist about it.

Before ascending to its perch, the rooster — a French emblem of vigilance and Christ's resurrection — was blessed by Paris Archbishop Laurent

Ullrich in a square behind the monument. Ullrich placed sacred relics in a hole inside the rooster's breast, including fragments of Christ's Crown of Thorns and remains of St. Denis and St. Genevieve, infusing the sculpture with

religious importance. The rooster's installation, crowning a spire reconstructed from Eugène Viollet-le-Duc's 19th-century design, is a poignant reminder of its medieval origins as a symbol of hope and faith.

Its longstanding association with the French nation since the Renaissance further adds to its historical and cultural significance, marking a new chapter of renewal and hope for Notre Dame and the French people.



During the Boston Tea Party of Dec. 16, 1773 — depicted in this undated engraving — patriots in costume dumped 342 chests of tea overboard from three British ships to protest taxation without representation. It was one of the defining moments that preceded the Revolutionary War.

Boston Tea 250 with re

Associated Press

BOSTON

Patriotic mobs and harbor tea-dumping returned to Boston on Saturday as the city marked the 250th anniversary of the revolutionary protest that preceded America's independence.

The commemoration of

the Boston cluded re-actments of tea tea harbor at meetings defiant a 1773. City expecting visitors it Tea fix was being East Indi

Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation logo and QR code.

Advertisement for sharps disposal: "DISPOSING OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!"

Advertisement for sharps disposal: "DISPOSING OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!"

Designed to be Different
MEMORY CARE AT BRUCEVILLE POINT

Our Memory Care Community Has It All:

- A specialized Memory Care program in an intimate and family-like setting.
- A socially connected and engaged community.
- Dining, activities and fitness programs designed by our dedicated team and built with the needs of those affected by dementia.
- Freedom to participate in the larger Bruceville Point and Elk Grove communities, with frequently scheduled community events and outings.

AVAILABLE NOW!

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!

918-225-5300
info@brucevillepoint.com
8700 Boulder Ranch Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757
90% LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Figure 4 - Newspaper Advertisement - The Sacramento Bee



A12

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE | SUNDAY • DECEMBER 17, 2023

ISRAEL

FROM A1
Israel's prosecution of the war.

Some families of the hostages seized on the shootings to urge the government to make securing the captives' freedom its highest priority.

Itzik Horn, whose children Eitan, 37, and Yair, 46, were abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz, said the killings reinforced his belief that Israel must immediately reach a deal to free all the captives, even if it means releasing Palestinians being held in Israeli jails on terrorism charges.

"Let them free all the Palestinian prisoners we have here, all the terrorists — what do I care," Horn said in an interview. "The most important thing isn't to defeat Hamas. The only victory here is to bring back all the hostages."

As Israelis took to the streets to demand the return of the hostages, David Barnea, the head of Mossad, Israel's spy service, met with Qatari officials Friday in Europe to discuss the possibil-

ity of a renewed pause in the fighting and further exchanges of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. The meeting had been planned before the death of the hostages.

Describing the results of a preliminary inquiry, the Israeli military said Saturday that its soldiers had been operating in Sbejajya, an area of Gaza City that had seen intense fighting. The soldiers were on alert for attempts by Hamas to ambush Israeli forces, possibly in civilian clothes, the military said.

The three hostages emerged without shirts from a building tens of yards away from the Israeli soldiers, bearing a stick with a white cloth, the military said. One soldier, believing the men posed a threat, opened fire, killing two of them and wounding the third, the early investigation found.

The third hostage fled into the building, from which a cry in Hebrew for help could be heard, the military said. The battalion commander ordered the forces to hold their fire. But the wounded hostage later re-emerged, after which he was



Alon Shamriz

fatally shot, the military statement said.

The hostages may have escaped or had been abandoned by their captors, said an Israeli military official, speaking on the condition of anonymity under military protocol.

All three men killed — identified by the military as Yotam Haim, Alon Shamriz and Samer Talalka — were kidnapped Oct. 7 from two kibbutzim in southern Israel near the Gaza border.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, which represents those kidnapped



Samer Talalka

Oct. 7 and their relatives, said Talalka, a member of Israel's Bedouin minority, had been working at a chicken hatchery when he was abducted. Haim was a drummer who had been set to perform at a heavy metal music festival in Tel Aviv on the night of the Hamas attacks. Shamriz was about to start month to describe Gaza as a "graveyard for children."

Talalka's monthslong captivity and sudden killing were like "a bad dream that I keep trying to wake up from," Alaa Talalka, his cousin, said in an interview Saturday.

On Friday, the family was celebrating the birthday of Samer Talalka's mother, a small point of light amid the crisis prompted by his abduction. Then came the news he had been fatally shot by Israeli soldiers in Gaza.

"He was so sociable and friendly; he loved to laugh and make people happy," said Alaa Talalka, 37, a psychologist from the Arab town of Hura in the southern Negev desert. "I can't fathom what's happened."

As Israelis mourned their deaths Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the news of their killing "broke my heart." He added: "It broke the entire country's heart. Our heart goes out to the families in their time of deep mourning."

But he stressed: "At this difficult time, it is important for me to stand by our soldiers. They are giving their lives to achieve a crushing victory over our enemies and return our hostages. We are doing — and will do — everything to safeguard the lives of our soldiers, each and every one of them."

The Israeli military has come under widespread in-



Yotam Haim

ternational criticism for what President Joe Biden described last week as indiscriminate bombing. In 10 weeks of war, Israel has struck more than 22,000 targets in the Gaza Strip, a barrage that has killed thousands of civilians, prompting U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres last month to describe Gaza as a "graveyard for children."

Palestinians and critics of how Israel has been fighting in Gaza have called Friday's shootings a small example of the Israeli military's disregard for civilians in Gaza.

"Under the laws of war, people are presumed to be civilians," said Sari Bashi, program director at Human Rights Watch. "There needs to be strong information to suggest they are not before you can kill them."

In this case, she said, "nobody baited an eye before killing them." She added that the investigation came only because the men were Israelis.

Akrum Attaallah, a columnist for Al-Ayyam, a Palestinian newspaper in the West Bank, said that the episode was a "condemnation of the Israeli army" and showed that Israeli forces were fighting the war with little regard for civilian life. "Israel kills even those who surrender and raise the white flag," said Attaallah, who is from Gaza.

Israel says it seeks to limit civilian casualties and places blame for the high death tolls in Gaza on Hamas, which it says puts military installations in civilian areas as well as in schools, mosques and hospitals.

The Israeli military has said that approximately 20 percent of Israeli soldiers who have died in the war

have been killed by its own forces in airstrikes, shelling, gunfire and accidents, many because of mistaken identification. As of Saturday, 119 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza.

Yagil Levy, a civil-military relations expert at the Open University of Israel, described the 20 percent rate of so-called friendly-fire mistakes as "unprecedented" for the Israeli military.

Also killed in the war have been 130 staff members of the United Nations and 64 journalists and news media workers, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a nonprofit organization based in New York.

Over the past week, the Israeli military has described intense urban warfare in Gaza; nine Israeli soldiers were killed Tuesday while trying to rescue wounded troops in Sbejajya, the same neighborhood of Gaza City where the three hostages were killed Friday.

Alongside the fighting, U.N. officials have described scenes of chaos, starvation and utter despair in Gaza among the territory's 2.2 million people, most of whom have been forced to flee their homes.

Philippe Lazzarini, who leads the U.N. agency charged with aiding Palestinians, traveled to Gaza last week. He described the territory as a "living hell."

Global concern also grew Saturday about tensions spilling over from the war and disrupting crucial shipping lanes in the Red Sea, where the Houthis, an armed group that controls much of northern Yemen, have been staging drone and missile assaults. Egyptian state media reported that its forces had shot down a drone off the coast of Dabab, a beach town on the Gulf of Aqaba. The report did not say where the drone had come from.

The Houthi militia claimed to have launched a number of attack drones toward the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat. Nir Dinar, an Israeli military spokesperson, said he could not confirm that claim.

In recent weeks, the United States has been in discussions with its allies to establish a naval task force to protect maritime traffic through the region.

Boesman, Hubbard and Fuller write for The New York Times.

Client Name:

Advertiser:

Section/Page/Zone: MAIN/A012/ME

Description:

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r:

DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION

DISPOSING OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

Now you can safely dispose of your unwanted and expired needles and sharps through the mail, in three easy steps.

- Step 1:** Visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org
- Step 2:** Select "Order A Sharps Mail-Back Package"
- Step 3:** Click Submit!

The best part? It's free! For more information visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org or call (844) 482-5322.

Figure 5 - Newspaper Advertisement - The San Diego Tribune



THE NATION

Miscarriage leads to criminal charges in Ohio

A woman lost her fetus at home after a hospital failed to treat her. Her case points to larger post-Roe issues.

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio was in the throes of a bitter debate over abortion rights earlier this fall when Brittany Watts, whose pregnancy was 21 weeks and 5 days along, began passing thick blood clots.

Watts, 33, who had not told even her family she was pregnant, made her first prenatal visit to a doctor's office behind Mercy Health-St. Joseph's Hospital in Warren, a working-class city about 60 miles southwest of Cleveland.

had broken prematurely and the fetus would not survive. He advised her to head to the hospital to have labor induced, which would amount to an abortion of the non-viable fetus. Otherwise, she would face "significant risk" of death, case records show.

That was a Thursday in September. What followed was a harrowing three days entailing multiple trips to the hospital, Watts miscarrying into, and then flushing and plugging, a toilet at her home; a police investigation of those actions; and Watts, who is Black, being charged with abuse of a corpse — a 1935-degree felony punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Her case was sent last month to a grand jury. It has touched off a national firestorm over the treatment of pregnant women, and especially Black women, in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision last year that overturned Roe vs. Wade.

Post-Dobbs, what we see is kind of a wild, wild West," she said. "You see a lot of people wanting to show that they are going to be vigilant — they're going to take down women who violate the ethics coming out of the state's legislature."

Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump elevated Watts' plight in a post to X, formerly Twitter.

Michelle Goodwin, a UC Irvine law professor and the author of "Policing the Womb," said that the case follows a pattern of women pregnancies being criminalized against them, and that such efforts have long overwhelmingly targeted Black and brown women.

Even before Roe was overturned, studies showed that Black women who visited hospitals for prenatal care were 20 times more likely than white women to have child protective services and law enforcement called on them, even when their cases were similar, Goodwin said.

Post-Dobbs, what we see is kind of a wild, wild West," she said. "You see a lot of people wanting to show that they are going to be vigilant — they're going to take down women who violate the ethics coming out of the state's legislature."

She called Black women "cannon in the coal mine" for the "hyper-vigilant type of policing" that women of all races could face from healthcare providers, law enforcement and courts now that abortion isn't federally protected.

At the time of Watts' miscarriage, abortion was legal in Ohio through 12 weeks and six days of pregnancy.

Her lawyer, Tracy Tinko, said Watts sat for eight hours at Mercy Health-St. Joseph's awaiting care on the eve of her pregnancy reaching 22 weeks, and finally left without being treated.

Tinko said hospital officials had been deliberating over the legality of treating Watts. "It was the fear of, is this going to constitute an abortion, and are we able to do that?" the lawyer said. The hospital didn't re-

turn calls seeking confirmation and consent.

B. Jennie Hill, a Case Western Reserve University law professor, said the hospital was in a bind.

"These are the cancer-edge decisions that healthcare providers are being forced to make," she said. "And all the incentives are pushing hospitals to be conservative, because on the other side of this is criminal liability."

Warren Assistant Prosecutor Lewis Guarnieri told Municipal Judge Terry Branchak at Watts' preliminary hearing that she had left home for a hair appointment after miscarrying, her toilet still clogged.

Tinko bottled in court, saying: "This 33-year-old girl with no criminal record is determined for something that goes on every day."

The size and stage of development of Watts' fetus also became an issue during her preliminary hearing.

A forensic investigator reported what felt like "a small foot with toes" inside Watts' toilet. Police broke the toilet apart and retrieved the infant fetus and evidence.

An autopsy found that the fetus had died in utero before passing through the birth canal and had "no recent injuries."

Governor calls for Maui tourist rentals to house fire victims



HAWAII GOV. Josh Green wants 3,000 rental units converted to housing for displaced residents.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said he wants 3,000 condos and homes that are normally rented to Maui tourists converted to long-term housing for the displaced wildfire survivors who are being in hotels.

Green said Friday he's prepared to use the "hammer" of post-fire emergency orders to make sure owners of short-term vacation rentals extend them to long-term units if enough spaces aren't converted voluntarily by mid-January.

The governor said that as of Thursday, there were 6,200 rental units in hotels, more than four months after the Aug. 8 wild-

fire wiped out historic Lahaina. The vast majority have nowhere else to go, given the extreme housing shortage on Maui.

The lack of stable housing has been a source of stress for Lahaina residents, some of whom have had to switch hotel rooms multiple times since the fire. One group is camping out on Kaunapali Beach in front of resort hotels and vowing to stay there until short-term rentals are converted for the unsheltered.

Green said a combination of county tax incentives and generous rent subsidies offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency should help.

FEMA on Monday sent letters to 13,600 short-term rental operators across

Maui informing them that it would offer to pay them the same rent they had earned during the previous year, Green said. In addition, the Maui County Council is considering legislation promoted by the mayor for property tax breaks.

"So there is no reason at all for people not to take this opportunity, provided they want to be a helpful part of the solution," Green said.

Green said he aims for these measures to provide interim housing for two years while more housing is built on Maui.

There are 22,000 to 24,000 units legally rented on a short-term basis on Maui, according to Green. If illegal units are included, there could be nearly 25,000, he estimated.

Diane Barber, Transiell County's lead prosecutor in the case, could not speak about it other than to note the county is compelled to move forward with it. She doesn't expect a grand jury finding this month.

Grace Howell, assistant justice studies professor at San Jose State, said clarity on what about Watts' behavior may have constituted a crime is essential.

"Her miscarriage was entirely ordinary," she said. "So I just want to know what (the prosecutor) thinks she should have done."

Smyth writes for the Associated Press.

Client Name: CNPA Advertising S... / PO# CA11072448
Advertiser: Inner Consumer Take Back Program
Section/Page/Zone: Main News/A006/EAST
Description: Time To Cleanout Your Medicine Cabinet
Ad Number: 7960662-1
Insertion Number: 3 x 5.2500
Size: 4 Colors
Color Type: 4 Colors

Times
12/17/2023

Printed in the Los Angeles Times on the date and page indicated. You may not create derivative works, or in any way exploit or repurpose any content.

The Department of the Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE in the Public Scoping Process for the Hawaii-California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

The Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action to conduct open military readiness activities within the Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area. The Navy also proposes to modernize and sustain its ranges in a manner necessary to support these readiness activities. The Proposed Action is needed to ensure U.S. military activities are able to organize, train, and equip service members and personnel to meet their respective national defense missions.

Public Involvement Opportunity

The Navy is hosting a virtual open-house presentation on the project website during the scoping period from Dec. 15, 2023, to Jan. 29, 2024. The presentation provides information about the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, environmental resource areas to be analyzed in the EIS/OEIS, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process, and public involvement opportunities. The public can view the virtual open-house presentation and submit comments at www.navy.navy.mil/hc/tales anytime during the scoping period.

The Navy invites the public to comment on the scope of the EIS/OEIS including identification of potential alternatives and environmental concerns, information and analysis relevant to the Proposed Action, issues that should be addressed in the NEPA analysis, and the project's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.navy.navy.mil/hc/tales or by mail to:
Naval Facilities Engineering System Command/Facilities
Attention: HCTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

This public scoping effort will also support consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations part 800, as members of the public are invited to participate, provide comments, or raise concerns.

Comments must be postmarked or received online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Jan. 29, 2024, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION

DISPOSING OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

Now you can safely dispose of your unwanted and expired needles and sharps through the mail, in three easy steps.

- Step 1: Visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org
- Step 2: Select "Order A Sharps Mail-Back Package"
- Step 3: Click Submit!

The best part? It's free! For more information visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org or call (844) 482-5322.

Best Spot for Viewing Downtown LB Fireworks!

A NEW YEAR'S

Join us for a soundscape soiree on the

Figure 6 - Newspaper Advertisement - The LA Times



 **DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

**WE'VE MADE
SHARPS DISPOSAL
FREE AND EASY!**

GET MAIL-IN KIT

Visit [SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org](https://www.SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org)



Figure 7 - Digital Media Displayed in Targeted Media



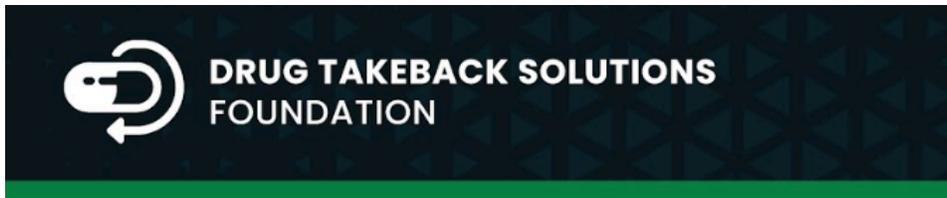
 **DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

**SAFELY DISCARD UNWANTED
OR EXPIRED NEEDLES AND
SHARPS FOR FREE!**

Visit [SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org](https://www.SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org)
or call **844-482-5322** for more
information and to request
mail-back materials!



Figure 8 - Digital Media Displayed on Digital Billboards



DISPOSING OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

Now you can safely dispose of your unwanted and expired needles and sharps through the mail, in three easy steps.

Step 1: Visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org

Step 2: Select "Order A Sharps Mail-Back Package"

Step 3: Click Submit!

The best part? It's free! For more information visit SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org or call (844) 482-5322.

Figure 9 - Newspaper Advertisement Displayed in The LA Times, San Diego Tribune, and The Sacramento Bee



**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**




to find this material in additional languages, scan this QR code.

FREE SHARPS DISPOSAL

DISPOSE OF YOUR SHARPS* SAFELY THROUGH OUR FREE PROGRAM



**Request a container today!
Pick the option best for you:**

- 1 Directly from the pharmacy. See pharmacist for details.
- 2 Call us at (844) 482-5322.
- 3 Order online for home delivery.

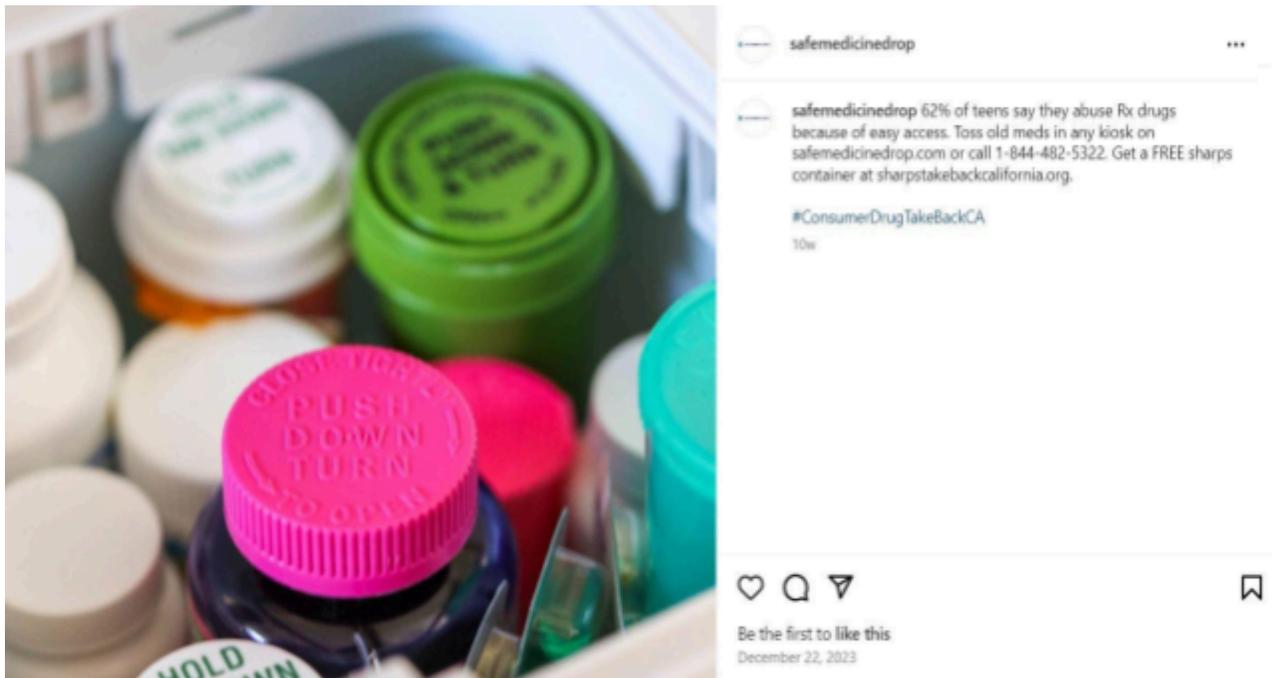
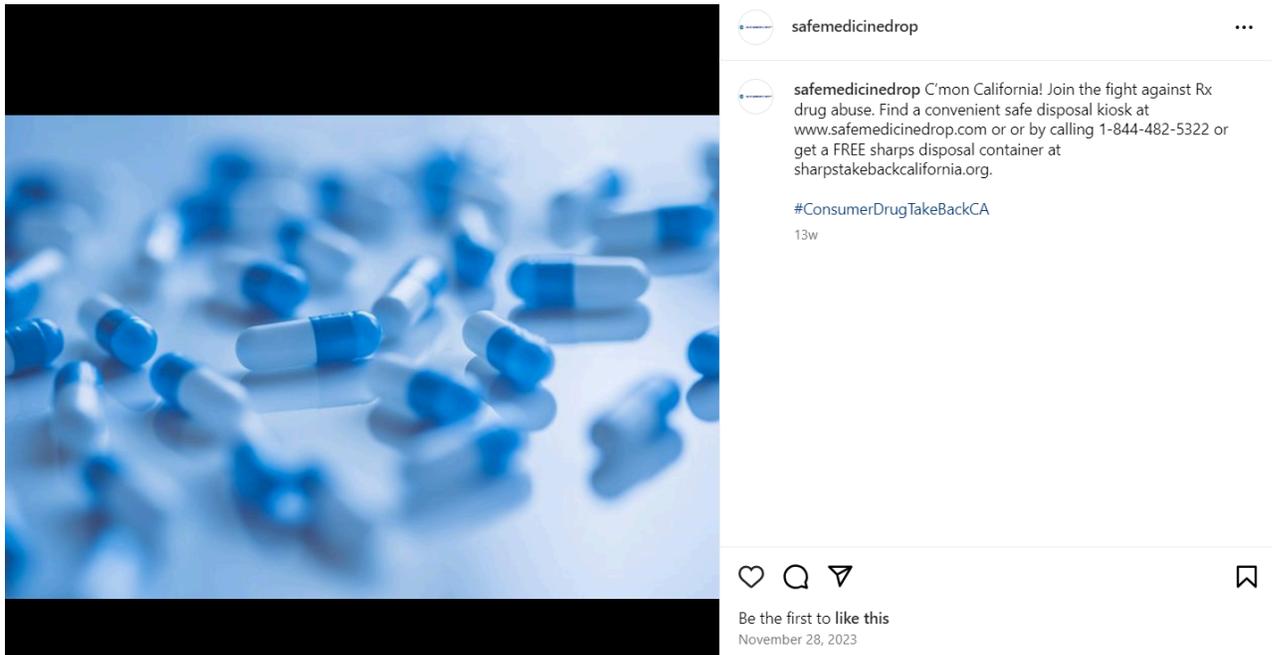
Ordering online?

- 1 Go to sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or scan the QR code
- 2 Enter your information
- 3 Complete the request form

For more information about the program, go to sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or call us at (844) 482-5322.

*Sharps include: hypodermic needles, pen or intravenous needles, lancets and other devices that penetrate the skin to deliver medication.

Figure 10 - Pharmacy Flier



Figure(s) 11 - Social Media Posts - Instagram. These images were shared on the same dates on X (Formerly Twitter) and Facebook

Appendix B – Websites¹³

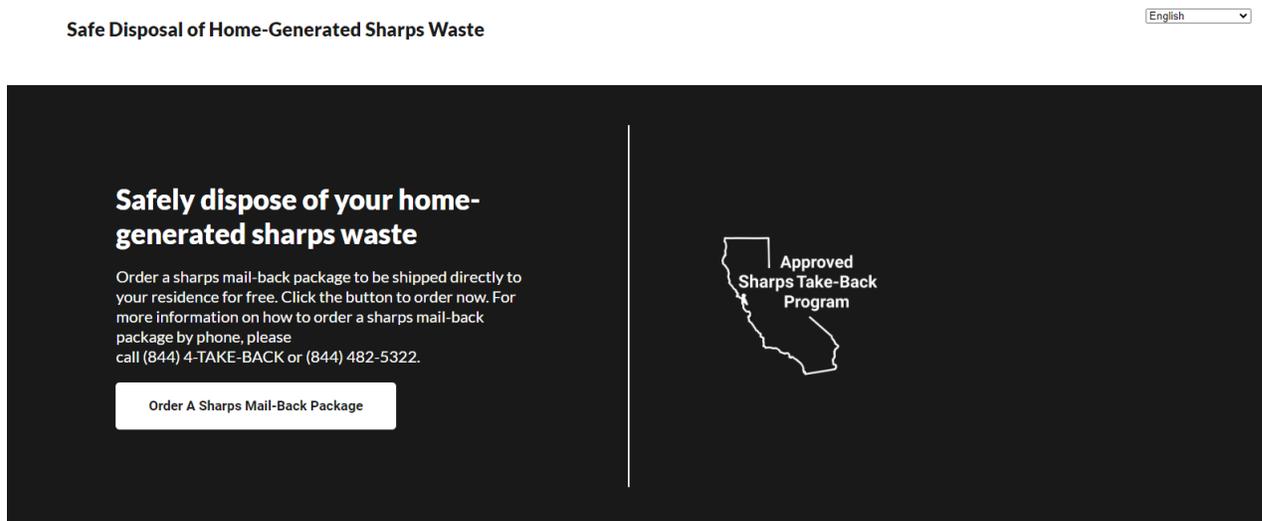


Figure 1 – Neutrally branded Website Live on October 26, 2023

Figure 1 Description:

Landing page of the neutrally branded, jointly operated website that went live on October 26, 2023. This webpage was created and utilized by both Program Operators. When Ultimate Users click on “Order A Sharps Mail-Back Package”, they are directed to the Foundation’s ordering screen 50% of the time and the other Program Operator’s ordering screen 50% of the time to ensure fair distribution amongst Program Operators. Website domain – www.sharpstakebackcalifornia.org.

¹³ CalRecycle’s Notice, item #9, requests the Foundation to demonstrate how an Ultimate User seeking information on proper sharps disposal navigated to the appropriate webpage for the Foundation’s Home-Generated Sharps Waste Stewardship Program, pursuant to 14 CCR section 18973.1(a). Figure descriptions have been included to help guide CalRecycle’s understanding of the Ultimate Users experience.

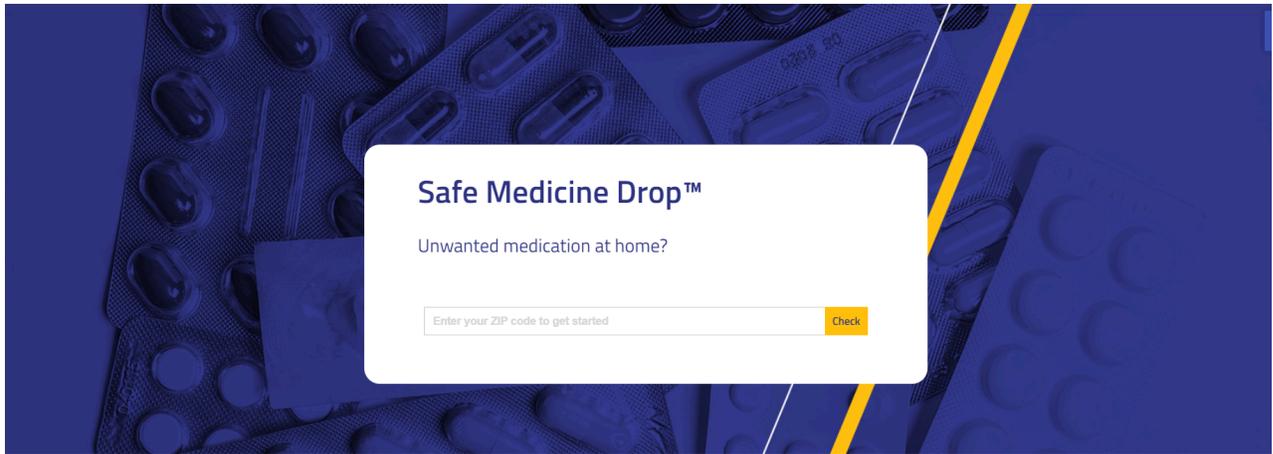


Figure 2 - The Foundation's approved vendor's website homepage (Utilized prior to creation of neutrally branded website on 10/26/2023)

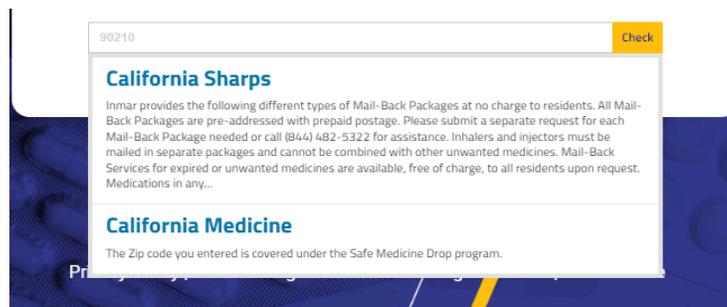
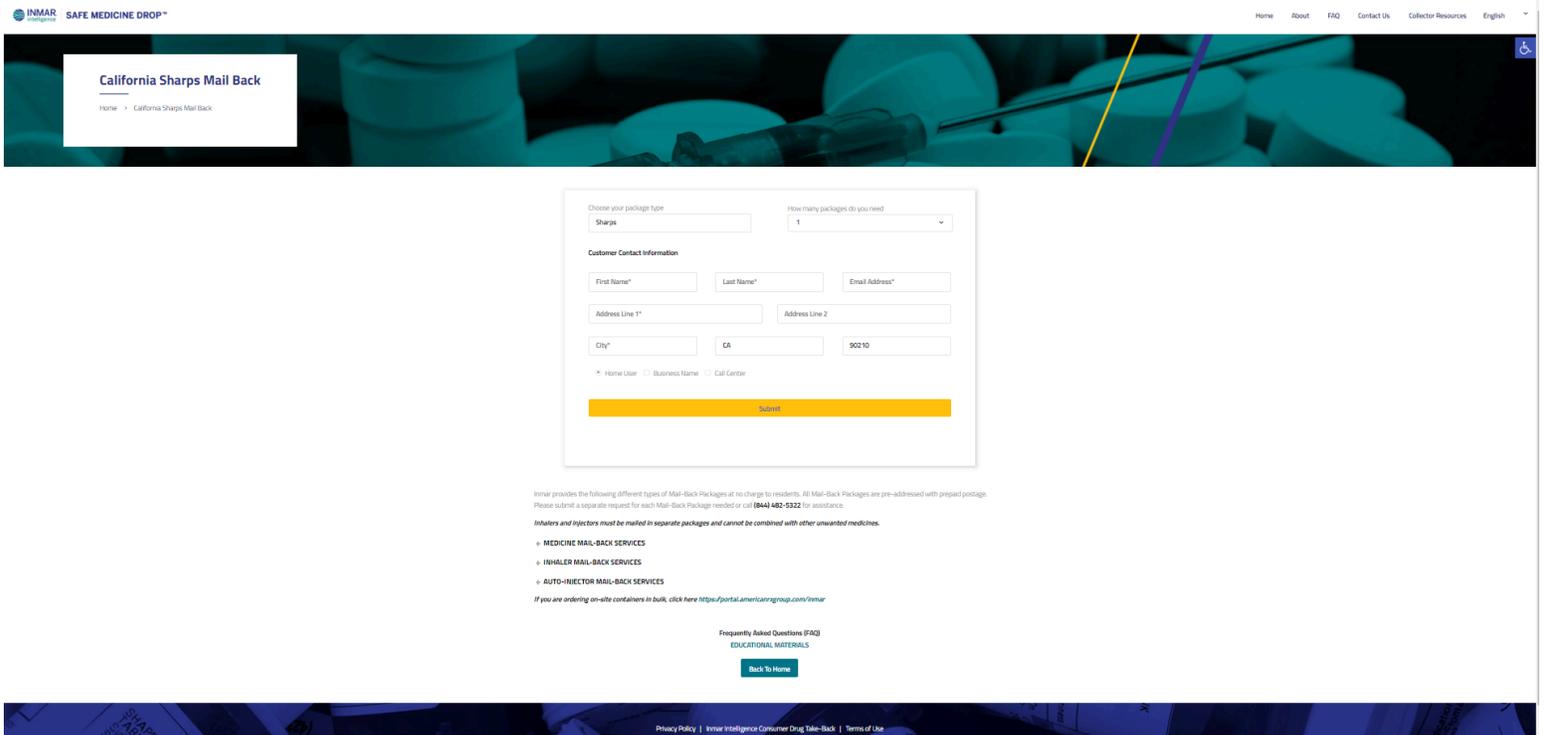


Figure 3 - Drop down menu on The Foundation's website homepage.

Figure 2 & 3 Description: Utilized until October 25, 2023

Figure 2 is The Foundation's approved vendor's homepage. Ultimate Users enter their zip code into the search bar. Ultimate Users are provided with a drop-down menu that demonstrates what programs and disposal options are available in their selected zip code. Ultimate Users have the option to select California Sharps and California Medicine when typing a zip code associated with the Program. Upon clicking on California Sharps, Ultimate Users are brought to the ordering screen (Figure 4). Figures 2 and 3 are no longer advertised, as CalRecycle requested that both Program Operators promote a single jointly operated website to avoid confusion amongst Ultimate Users. Figures 2 and 3 were utilized by the Foundation until the jointly operated website was available for use starting on October 26, 2023. Website domain -

www.safemedicinedrop.com.



The screenshot shows the INMAR Safe Medicine Drop website. The header includes the INMAR logo and navigation links: Home, About, FAQ, Contact Us, Collector Resources, and English. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home > California Sharps Mail Back. The main content area features a form titled "California Sharps Mail Back" with the following fields:

- Choose your package type: Sharps
- How many packages do you need: 1
- Customer Contact Information:
 - First Name*
 - Last Name*
 - Email Address*
 - Address Line 1*
 - Address Line 2
 - City*
 - CA
 - 90210
- Radio buttons for: Home User, Business Name, Call Center
- A yellow "Submit" button.

Below the form, there is a disclaimer: "INMAR provides the following different types of Mail-Back Packages at no charge to residents. All Mail-Back Packages are pre-addressed with prepaid postage. Please submit a separate request for each Mail-Back Package needed or call (844) 482-2322 for assistance." A note states: "Inhalers and Injectors must be mailed in separate packages and cannot be combined with other unwanted medicines." A list of services is provided:

- MEDICINE MAIL-BACK SERVICES
- INHALER MAIL-BACK SERVICES
- AUTO-INJECTOR MAIL-BACK SERVICES

A link is provided: "If you are ordering on-site containers in bulk, click here <https://portal.americanriggroup.com/inmar>". At the bottom of the form area, there are links for "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" and "EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS", and a "Back To Home" button. The footer contains: "Privacy Policy | Inmar Intelligence Consumer Drug Take-Back | Terms of Use".

Figure 4 - Ordering Page

Figure 4 Description:

Figure 4 is the ordering page where Mailers for Ultimate Users are requested, and where educational information and frequently asked questions can be located.

Choose your package type
Sharps

How many packages do you need
1
2
3

Customer Contact Information

First Name* Last Name* Email Address*

Address Line 1* Address Line 2

City* CA 90210

Home User Business Name Call Center

Submit

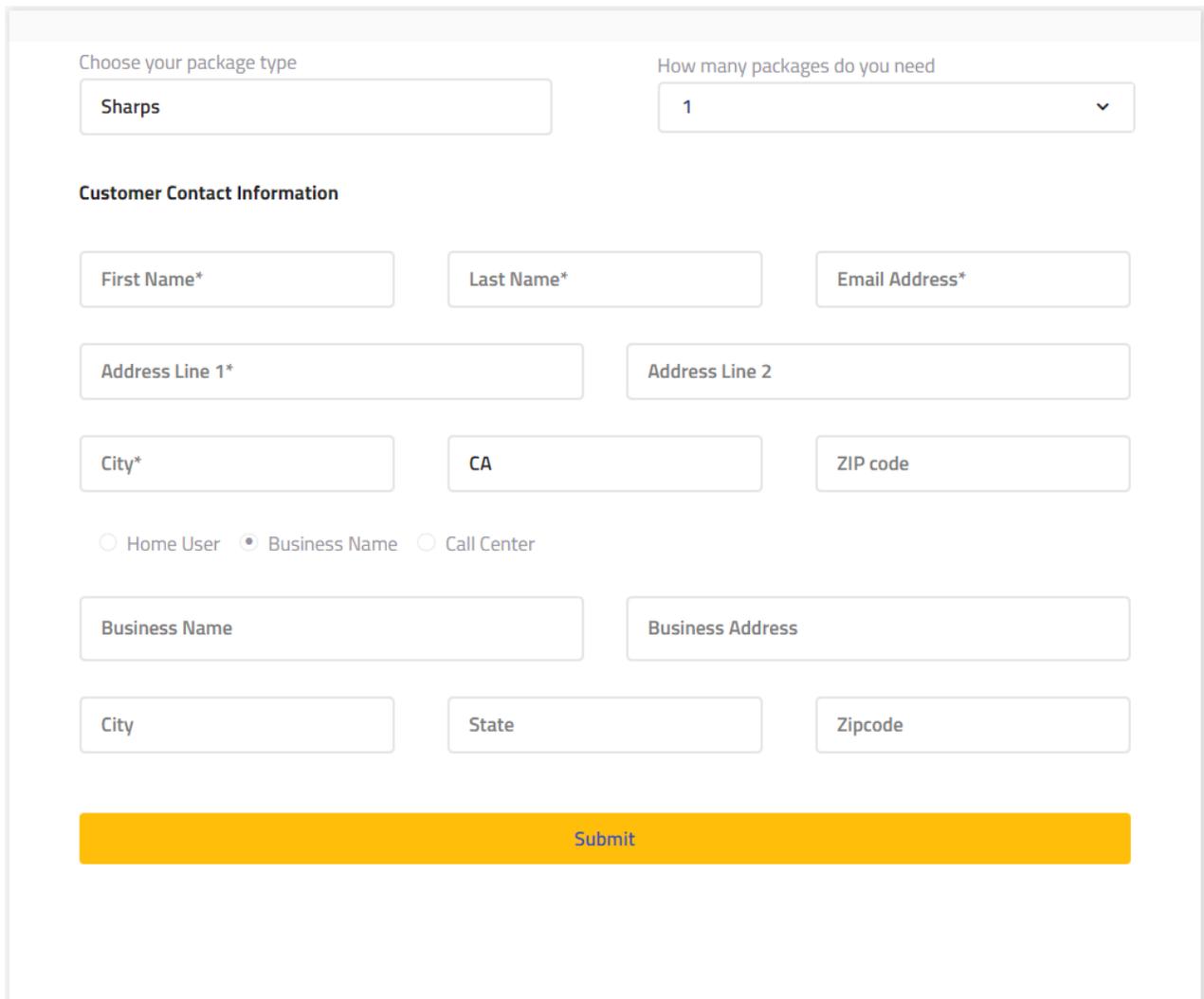
Inmar provides the following different types of Mail-Back Packages at no charge to residents. All Mail-Back Packages are pre-addressed with prepaid postage. Please submit a separate request for each Mail-Back Package needed or call **(844) 482-5322** for assistance.

Inhalers and injectors must be mailed in separate packages and cannot be combined with other unwanted medicines.

- **MEDICINE MAIL-BACK SERVICES**
- **INHALER MAIL-BACK SERVICES**
- **AUTO-INJECTOR MAIL-BACK SERVICES**

If you are ordering on-site containers in bulk, click here <https://portal.americanrxgroup.com/inmar>

Figure 5 – Ordering Screen Landing Page



Choose your package type
Sharps

How many packages do you need
1

Customer Contact Information

First Name* Last Name* Email Address*

Address Line 1* Address Line 2

City* CA ZIP code

Home User Business Name Call Center

Business Name Business Address

City State Zipcode

Submit

Figure 6- Ordering Form - 'Business Name' Selection

Figures 5 & 6 Description:

Figure 5 is the ordering form landing page and Figure 6 is the actual ordering intake form. This form can be submitted an unlimited number of times in order to accommodate for the amount of sharps prescribed. 'Home User' is selected for Ultimate Users placing the order for themselves. 'Call Center' is selected when the call center is placing the order on behalf of an Ultimate User. 'Business Name' is selected when a Point of Sale Location places an order on

behalf of the Ultimate User. Figure 6 demonstrates the additional fields that populate when selecting 'Business Name'.

Inmar provides the following different types of Mail-Back Packages at no charge to residents. All Mail-Back Packages are pre-addressed with prepaid postage. Please submit a separate request for each Mail-Back Package needed or call **(844) 482-5322** for assistance.

Inhalers and injectors must be mailed in separate packages and cannot be combined with other unwanted medicines.

- ◆ **MEDICINE MAIL-BACK SERVICES**
- ◆ **INHALER MAIL-BACK SERVICES**
- ◆ **AUTO-INJECTOR MAIL-BACK SERVICES**

If you are ordering on-site containers in bulk, click here <https://portal.americanrxgroup.com/inmar>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Back To Home

Figure 7 - Educational Materials/ FAQ Location at the Bottom of the Ordering Form

Figure 7 Description:

The location of the educational materials, frequently asked questions, the bulk ordering portal for Point of Sale Locations, as well as information on other Mail-Back services should the Ultimate User need to be redirected to alternate forms of disposal.

BULK ORDERING SITES ONLY:	
+ If you have a medical emergency, contact 911.	- I spoke with a sales rep from Inmar. When can I expect my containers?
+ Who can receive a sharps waste container?	- My business interacts with home generated sharps waste in the state of California and I would like to enroll in this program. Who do I contact?
+ What is the size of the container?	- How do I log into the portal for bulk supplies?
+ What can I put in a sharps waste container?	- I never received the email from noreply.amrgroup@amrgroup.com what do I need to do
+ How many sharps waste containers can I request?	- What is the difference between ordering on http://www.safemedicedrop.com and the portal https://portal.americanrxgroup.com/inmar/ ?
+ How can I contact Inmar?	- What are the dimensions of bulk orders?
+ I have more than one address (mailing, physical, PO Box). Which address should I list?	- What is Inmar Intelligence's Consumer Drug Take-Back Program?
+ What do I do with a full container and how do I package the units?	- Why should I dispose of unwanted or expired medications in my home?
+ Do I automatically get sent a new sharps mailback unit?	- Is this service free?
+ I ordered a container, when can I expect to receive it?	- Should I remove my personal information before disposing of my medication?
+ I lost the mailback return packaging. What should I do?	- What does Inmar Intelligence trace about me?
+ What documentation is required when handing out sharps waste containers?	- Is the package I send my medication in opened after I send it?
	- What does Inmar Intelligence report?

Figure 8 – FAQ



Educational Materials

Home > California Sharps Mail Back > Educational Materials

How To Dispose of Sharps:



Mail-Back Sharps Waste Container

- a. Request a mail-back sharps waste container
- b. Put sharps in container and seal it
- c. Place filled sharps container in ship-back box included in original shipment
- d. Drop packaged container in any USPS outgoing mail with prepaid, preaddressed shipping label

ACCEPTED:

- Hypodermic, pen, and intravenous needles, lancets and other devices used to penetrate the skin.

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Medical devices not used to penetrate the skin, herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, batteries, Mercury-containing thermometers, illegal drugs and pet pesticide products.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** English | Español | Tiếng Việt | 中文 | 韓語 | 日本語 | Tagalog | ភ្នំ | ឃ្លា/ស្រី
- PHARMACY FUJER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** English | Español | Tiếng Việt | 中文 | 韓語 | 日本語 | Tagalog | ឃ្លា/ស្រី | ភ្នំ
- POST CARD EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** English | Español | Tiếng Việt | 韓語 | 日本語 | 中文
- STAPLE TO SCRIPT EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** English | Español | Tiếng Việt | 中文 | 韓語 | 日本語 | Tagalog | ភ្នំ | ឃ្លា/ស្រី

[Back To Mailback](#)

Figure 9 – Educational Materials Page

Contact Us

Home > Contact Us



Get In Touch

If you have any questions, or if you are a pharmacy or retailer and would like to learn more about the Consumer Drug Take-Back Program, Please write to us at
take-back@inmar.com

If you are an authorized collector and your collection receptacle needs maintenance or servicing, please contact us at take-back@inmar.com or call
800-350-0396



Figure 10 – Contact Us



Select Language

- العربية
- বাংলা
- 简体中文
- English
- Filipino
- Kreyol ayisyen
- हिन्दी
- Italiano
- 日本語
- ភាសាខ្មែរ
- 한국어
- Polski
- Português
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ
- Русский
- Español
- ไทย
- Tiếng Việt
- עברית

Figure 11 - Language Selection & Required Languages

Appendix C – Surveys

Results Summary – Providers¹⁴

- 67% stated that they were aware of the Program for Ultimate Users to safely dispose of Sharps
- 66% of respondents were exposed to the Program via the Foundation’s outreach mechanisms (direct mail, letters, newspaper, email, signs/posters, pharmacies and health related clinics, social media, radio, and online resources)
- Only 19% stated they were not aware of the Program
- 14% reported that they were unsure of their awareness of the Program
- 75% of respondents stated that the Program is convenient
- 73% stated that they would be likely to ask their patients to utilize a drop-off box to discard their unwanted needles or sharps.

Demographics – Providers:

- 16-17: 0.6% (Eliminated from survey due to minimum age requirement)
- 18-24: 21.8%
- 25-34: 30.2%
- 35-44: 27.6%
- 45-54: 10.6%
- >54: 9.2%

What is your gender?

- Male (50%)
- Female (50%)

¹⁴ CalRecycle’s Notice item #8 requests that the Foundation provide the questions used for the healthcare provider survey and include the percentage of survey respondents that have used the program, which collection method was used, and the method of contact, consistent with the Foundation’s approved plan.

What is your profession?

- Doctor: 15.4%
- Physician Assistant: 13.6%
- Health Administrator: 20.6%
- Nurse Practitioner: 8.4%
- Nurse: 14.2%
- Pharmacist: 9.8%
- Pharmacy Technician: 10%
- Dentist: 8%
- None of the above: 0%

Awareness - Providers

Q1: Are you aware of the program for residents to safely dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines in California?

- Yes: 66.8%
- No: 19.2%
- Don't know: 14%

Q2: Where did you read, see, or hear information about the program for residents to dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines in California? (Multiple choice - percentage of respondents selected listed choices)

- Social Media: 57.78%
- Direct Mail/Letter: 24.55%
- Law Enforcement: 23.05%
- Online Resources (Example: Newspaper): 41.02%
- TV: 39.22%
- Radio: 18.86%
- Newspaper, magazines, journals: 27.75%
- Signage: 18.56%
- Brochures: 15.57%
- Family/Friends: 27.84%
- Pharmacies, Hospitals, Doctor's Office: 42.81%

- Email: 20.06%
- Special Events: 20.66%

Knowledge and Attitudes – Providers

Q3: Have you talked to patients or clients regarding the risks, such as potential injury and spread of disease from improperly storing and improperly discarding or abandoning Home-Generated Sharps Waste in the past year?

- Yes: 62.6%
- No: 20%
- Don't know: 17.4%

Q4: Carefully read the list of statements about expired/unwanted sharps. Please indicate if this is a cause for concern in the home or community.

- Keeping expired and/or unwanted medications in the home can lead to accidental poisoning or overdose
 - Extremely Concerned: 36.6%
 - Very Concerned: 30%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 16.8%
 - Not Concerned: 6.6%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 10%
- Keeping expired and/or unwanted medications in the home can provide the opportunity for family members and friends to use/abuse them.
 - Extremely Concerned: 28.2%
 - Very Concerned: 34%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 17.8%
 - Not Concerned: 11.8%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 8.2%
- Keeping expired and/or Unwanted sharps/needles in the home can lead to accidental needlestick injury
 - Extremely Concerned: 34.2%
 - Very Concerned: 28.2%

- Somewhat Concerned: 17.8%
 - Not Concerned: 11.8%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 8%
- Improperly storing or discarding unwanted sharps/needles can lead to the spread of disease
 - Extremely Concerned: 31%
 - Very Concerned: 33.8%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 18.2%
 - Not Concerned: 8.2%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 8.8%

Q5: Below is a list of ways to deal with expired and/ or unwanted sharps/needles. Please indicate whether you feel each of the described methods of disposal is safe.

- Flushing down the toilet
 - Safe: 39.4%
 - Not Safe: 45%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 15.6%
- Throwing in the trash as-is
 - Safe: 29.8%
 - Not Safe: 54.2%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 16%
- Mixing it with something like kitty litter or coffee grounds and then throwing it in the trash:
 - Safe: 28.2%
 - Not Safe: 53%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 18.8%
- Taking it to a drop-off box at a pharmacy or hospital
 - Safe: 61.6%
 - Not Safe: 20.6%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 17.8%
- Using a mail-back envelope or kit
 - Safe: 41.4%
 - Not Safe: 36.4%

- Not Sure/Don't Know: 22.2%
- Taking it to a one-day disposal event such as a National Drug Take-Back Day
 - Safe: 62.4%
 - Not Safe: 21%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 16.6%
- Taking it to a police station
 - Safe: 44%
 - Not Safe: 30.8%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 25.2%
- Placing it in plastic containers such as shampoo bottles.
 - Safe: 35.4%
 - Not Safe: 44.4%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 20.2%

Convenience and Accessibility – Providers

Q6: If you knew that there were drop-off boxes¹⁵ at a location near your office in California where residents could safely dispose of expired and/or unwanted sharps or needles, how likely would you be to ask them to use these drop-off boxes to dispose of your needles/sharps?

- Very likely: 46.7%
- Somewhat likely: 25.4%
- Not very likely: 10%
- Not likely at all: 8.8%
- No opinion: 8.2%

Results Summary – Ultimate Users:

¹⁵ In the RFA dated June 27, 2024, CalRecycle stated that '[i]t is unclear what The Foundation means when referencing a "drop-off box" since its statewide program for home-generated sharps waste is a mail-back program.' The Foundation acknowledges that the statewide program does not include drop-off boxes, though they do exist elsewhere in sharps disposal programs. The Foundation was not attempting to use this survey to inform respondents about the options provided by the statewide program, but to gather opinions on various types of options, including those offered by the statewide program.

- 51% of Ultimate Users surveyed are aware of the Program
- 68% of Ultimate Users surveyed were exposed to the Program via the Foundation's outreach mechanisms (direct mail, letters, newspaper, email, signs/posters, pharmacies and health related clinics, social media, radio, and online resources)
- 5.2% of Ultimate Users reported having used the Program via Mail-Back materials
- 75% of Ultimate Users state that it is convenient to dispose of sharps by using a pre-paid mail-back envelope or kit
- 76% of Ultimate Users state that the ability to request a sharps mail-back package online is convenient.

Demographics - Ultimate Users:

What is your age?

- 16-17: 0.7% (Eliminated from survey due to minimum age requirement)
- 18-24: 13.6%
- 25-34: 20.8%
- 35-44: 21%
- 45-54: 15.4%
- >54: 28.5%

What is your gender?

- Male (57%)
- Female (43%)

Awareness - Ultimate Users

Q1: Are you aware of the program for residents to safely dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines in California?

- Yes: 51.1%
- No: 48.9%

Q2: Where did you read, see, or hear information about the program for residents to dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines in California? (Multiple choice - percentage of respondents selected listed choices)

- Social Media: 33.86%

- Direct Mail/Letter: 18.2%
- Law Enforcement: 14.29%
- Online Resources (Example: Newspaper): 19.37%
- TV: 25.64%
- Radio: 11.55%
- Newspaper, magazines, journals: 18.2%
- Signage: 18.2%
- Brochures: 11.55%
- Family/Friends: 24.07%
- Pharmacies, Hospitals, Doctor's Office: 31.31%
- Email: 10.96%
- Special Events: 11.55%

Knowledge and Attitudes - Ultimate Users

Q4: How do you currently dispose of unwanted and/or expired sharps?

- By using a medicine/sharps drop-off box: 17.2%
- By using mail-back materials: 5.2%
- Take them to a local household hazardous waste family or other take-back events: 11%
- Throw it out with your regular trash as-is: 10%
- Flush it down the toilet: 3.3%
- Take it back to a pharmacy/drugstore: 8.3%
- Take it back to a doctor/clinic/hospital: 4.4%
- Store it in your home: 4.6%
- Mixing it with something like kitty litter or coffee grounds and then throwing it in the trash: 3.5%
- Take it to the police station: 3.1%
- Don't dispose of them: 10.9%
- Other: 8.1%
- Don't Know: 10.4%

Q5: Below is a list of ways to deal with expired and/ or unwanted sharps/needles. Please

indicate whether you feel each of the described methods of disposal is safe.

- Flushing down the toilet
 - Safe: 10.9%
 - Not Safe: 79.5%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 9.6%
- Throwing in the trash as-is
 - Safe: 11.7%
 - Not Safe: 76.2%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 12.1%
- Mixing it with something like kitty litter or coffee grounds and then throwing it in the trash:
 - Safe: 10.2%
 - Not Safe: 74.1%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 15.7%
- Taking it to a drop-off box at a pharmacy or hospital
 - Safe: 82.1%
 - Not Safe: 9.3%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 8.6%
- Using a mail-back envelope or kit
 - Safe: 66.5%
 - Not Safe: 15.8%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 17.7%
- Taking it to a one-day disposal event such as a National Drug Take-Back Day
 - Safe: 77.9%
 - Not Safe: 11.8%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 10.3%
- Taking it to a police station
 - Safe: 53.5%
 - Not Safe: 17.5%
 - Not Sure/Don't Know: 29%
- Placing it in plastic containers such as shampoo bottles.
 - Safe: 20%

- Not Safe: 57%
- Not Sure/Don't Know: 23%

Q6: There are many reasons someone may keep sharps/needles that they no longer need. Please tell me if any of the following describe why you may have expired and/or unwanted sharps stored at home:

- Saving them in case I need them: 8.8%
- Waiting for a collection day where I can dispose of them safely: 32.8%
- Don't know what to do with them: 14.7%
- Haven't gotten around to it yet: 10.6%
- Hadn't thought about it: 10.4%
- Don't know/prefer not to answer: 11.3%
- Other: 11.4%

Q7: Carefully read the list of statements about expired/unwanted sharps. Please indicate if this is a cause for concern in the home or community.

- Keeping expired and/or unwanted medications in the home can lead to accidental poisoning or overdose
 - Extremely Concerned: 31.7%
 - Very Concerned: 24.1%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 20.6%
 - Not Concerned: 16.4%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 7.2%
- Keeping expired and/or unwanted medications in the home can provide the opportunity for family members and friends to use/abuse them.
 - Extremely Concerned: 29.9%
 - Very Concerned: 22.6%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 18.9%
 - Not Concerned: 22%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 6.6%
- Keeping expired and/or Unwanted sharps/needles in the home can lead to accidental needlestick injury

- Extremely Concerned: 34.3%
- Very Concerned: 24.9%
- Somewhat Concerned: 20.6%
- Not Concerned: 14%
- Don't Know/No Opinion: 6.2%
- Improperly storing or discarding unwanted sharps/needles can lead to the spread of disease
 - Extremely Concerned: 36.5%
 - Very Concerned: 25.3%
 - Somewhat Concerned: 20.6%
 - Not Concerned: 11.5%
 - Don't Know/No Opinion: 6.1%

Convenience and Accessibility - Ultimate Users

Q3: Please read the list of safe ways to dispose of sharps below, and indicate how convenient each of the disposal methods are, in your opinion.

- Taking it to a drop-off box location
 - Very Convenient: 32.2%
 - Somewhat Convenient: 37.8%
 - Not Very Convenient: 16.6%
 - Not Convenient at all: 6.6%
 - No Opinion: 6.8%
- Using a pre-paid mail-back envelope or kit
 - Very Convenient: 44%
 - Somewhat Convenient: 31.2%
 - Not Very Convenient: 11.6%
 - Not Convenient at all: 7.6%
 - No Opinion: 5.6%
- Taking it to a one-day event, such as a National Drug Take-Back Day:
 - Very Convenient: 17.8%
 - Somewhat Convenient: 30.9%

- Not Very Convenient: 29.8%
- Not Convenient at all: 13.8%
- No Opinion: 7.7%
- Ability to request a sharps mail-back envelope online:
 - Very Convenient: 41.5%
 - Somewhat Convenient: 34.4%
 - Not Very Convenient: 11.4%
 - Not Convenient at all: 5.1%
 - No Opinion: 7.6%

Q8: If you knew that there were drop-off boxes at a location near you where residents could safely dispose of expired and/or unwanted sharps or needles, how likely would you use these drop-off boxes to dispose of your needles/sharps?

- Very likely: 54.5%
- Somewhat likely: 24.3%
- Not very likely: 6.2%
- Not likely at all: 5.4%
- No opinion: 9.6%