

BWC Safe Opioid Disposal

Under an initiative proposed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) provides injured workers with a drug disposal product that destroys leftover opioid tablets, capsules, and patches. Ohio BWC mails the product to injured workers in Ohio receiving an opioid prescription for the first time within the last 12 months.

What is a drug disposal product?

While there are several drug disposal products available, BWC mails each eligible injured worker a DisposeRx product. DisposeRx has a blend of solidifying materials that provide a safe solution for the disposal of unused, unwanted, or expired medications in an easy three-step process:

1. Add water until prescription vial is 2/3 full.
2. Empty DisposeRX powder into vial, replace cap, and shake for 30 seconds.
3. Safely discard in trash.

How many opioid prescriptions does BWC cover each year?

BWC covered 108,715 opioid prescriptions in calendar year 2021, a 12% decline from 2020, for 11,025 injured workers.

BWC estimates up to 160 injured workers per month will be eligible for a disposal product.

Who pays for the drug disposal products?

BWC covers the cost of the DisposeRx product. There is no cost to an injured worker, employer, prescriber, or pharmacy.

Why do Governor Mike DeWine and BWC advocate the use of these products?

These are additional tools aimed at keeping opioids from falling into the hands of children or others who are not the intended recipient. This effort is consistent with Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative.

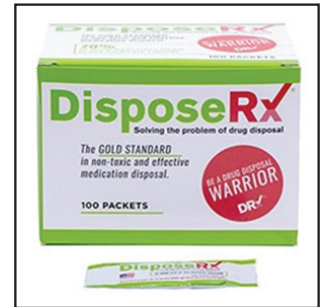
Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health states that **nearly one-third of people ages 12 and over who used drugs for the first time began by using a prescription drug for non-medical purposes**. The illicit use of opioids has hit Ohio especially hard, killing 29.6 people per 100,000 residents in 2018, the fourth highest rate of all states, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

One recent study in JAMA Pediatrics showed that providing drug disposal bags to families of patients who received postoperative opioids **increased the chance of disposing of leftover opioid medication** compared to those who did not receive a drug disposal bag.

(Lawrence AE, Carsel AJ, Leonhart KL, et al. Effect of Drug Disposal Bag Provision on Proper Disposal of Unused Opioids by Families of Pediatric Surgical Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Pediatrics. Published online August 01, 2019;173(8):e191695. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.1695)

How much has the opioid crisis cost our state?

Opioid addiction, abuse, and overdose deaths cost Ohio anywhere from **\$6.6 billion to \$8.8 billion annually**, according to a 2017 report from the C. William Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy at The Ohio State University. The crisis places a particularly heavy burden on the public sector in health care, treatment, and criminal justice costs.



Bureau of Workers'
Compensation

Governor Mike DeWine
Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud

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