

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Community Disposed of Unused Medications and Sharps at Successful Medication Cleanout Event**

In partnership with the [Texas Panhandle Poison Center](#) (TPPC), managed by the [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center \(TTUHSC\) Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy](#), Panhandle residents safely disposed of expired, unused or unnecessary medications during the Medication Cleanout on Saturday (April 26).

A total of 1,106 pounds of medications and 162 pounds of sharps were discarded. During the event, 337 cars came through the convenient, drive-thru drop-off, allowing participants to discard their medications without leaving their vehicles.

“Medication Cleanout is all about making it easy for people to get rid of medicines they no longer need,” said Ronica Farrar, an educator with the TPPC. “Unused or expired medications sitting around the house can easily become dangerous, especially in homes with young children, teenagers or elderly family members. It’s crucial to take action and remove those risks.”

Since its launch in 2009, there have been more than 90 Medication Cleanout events in Amarillo, Lubbock and Abilene, during which thousands of pounds of medications and sharps have been collected and properly disposed of.

Farrar emphasized the serious risks that come with keeping medications unsecured in the home.

“Medications can be a source of accidental poisoning for kids or a temptation for teens experimenting with drugs,” Farrar explained. “Adults and seniors also face the danger of confusing medications or taking ones that are no longer necessary.”

With growing concerns around prescription drug misuse and suicidal behaviors involving medications, Farrar emphasized the importance of the community taking action.

“Now, more than ever, it’s time to clean out your medicine cabinets,” Farrar urged. “By safely disposing of these medications, you’re not just protecting your family from potential harm —



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you might be saving a life. Poisoning, often caused by medication overdose, is currently the third leading method of suicide in the U.S.”

For additional details about the Medication Cleanout event, contact (806) 414-9495 or visit [www.MedicationCleanout.com](http://www.MedicationCleanout.com).