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"Take Back Day" Nets Thousands of Pounds of Drugs

Staff
Charleston

State authorities say more than 3,000 pounds of prescription drugs were collected during "Take Back Day" last Saturday, a statewide effort to collect unwanted and expired pills.

U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin and Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Dennis Bolum announced Tuesday that residents turned in 3,178 pounds of drugs during the event.

The previous "Take Back Day" last September ended with 2,404 pounds of prescription drugs being collected, a release from Goodwin said.

The southern half of the state collected 1,824 pounds of pills. That's up from 1,199 pounds in September.

More than 100 sites across the state were set up where residents could turn in drugs. Nationwide, more than 5,100 sites collected the unwanted medications.

Goodwin says the program will help reduce drug abuse. About 70 percent of people who use prescription drugs for non-medical purposes get the drugs from friends or a family member, Goodwin said.



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