

## California Fact Sheet



# Pharmaceutical EPR Program: Santa Barbara County

Rev. 8/02/18

In 2010 **Santa Barbara County** collected unwanted medicine through a program called Operation Medicine Cabinet.<sup>1</sup> In the eight years of its operation 50,000 pounds of unwanted medicines were collected via nine collection sites, all at law enforcement agencies. Santa Barbara County Waste Management Division paid for the collection bins and the law enforcement agencies covered the other program costs of emptying and transporting the collected medicine.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, **Ordinance No. 4971** was passed with the purpose of shifting the cost to producers and increasing convenience.<sup>1</sup>

**Organizing Body:** MED-Project is the Stewardship Organization which formed to comply with the requirements in **Ordinance No. 4971**.<sup>3</sup>



**Costs & Funding:** **Ordinance No. 4971** states a Producer, **either individually or with other Producers, or a Stewardship Organization** shall prepare, implement, and operate its Stewardship Plan as required by this article at **its own cost and expense**.<sup>4</sup>

A full list of over **300 producers** can be found [in the notice of intent](#).

**Program Facts:** Med-Project anticipates collecting approximately **9,000 pounds** of unwanted medicine from kiosk drop-off sites in 2019.<sup>3</sup>

### Collection Locations & Accessibility:

[The ordinance](#) requires five collection locations in each of the five supervisorial districts, making a total of **25 kiosk locations required**.<sup>3</sup>

They have exceeded the requirements as of August 2018 by having **29 collection kiosks**, according to MED-Project's map.<sup>6</sup>

**Sharps:** Although sharps are not included in the ordinance, a **free mail back program** is available through, and funded by, MarBorg Industries, Waste Management, and E.J. Harrison & Sons, the three waste haulers in Santa Barbara County.<sup>7</sup>

**Timeline:**

**2010:** Operation Medicine Cabinet begins.<sup>1</sup>

**June 2015:** Agenda item 15-00784 directing staff to draft EPR ordinance passed by 5-0 vote.<sup>8</sup>

**June 2016:** Ordinance No. 4971 passes with a 4-1 vote to adopt.<sup>4</sup>

**July 21, 2016:** Ordinance No. 4971 goes into effect.<sup>1</sup>

**March 2018:** MED-Project of Santa Barbara is approved and goes into effect.<sup>6</sup>

**References:**

1. "Safe Medicine Disposal Kiosks Now Located Across Santa Barbara County" *sbsheriff* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
2. "Operation Medicine Cabinet Gets the Drop on Prescription Drug Disposal" *noozhawk* accessed August 2018 [Web](#).
3. "A Product Stewardship Plan For Unwanted Medicine from Households." *countyofsb* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
4. "Ordinance No. 4971" *lessismore* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
5. "Extended Producer Responsibility Stewardship Ordinance" *countyofsb* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
6. "Med-Project Kiosks" *med-project* accessed August 2018 [Web](#).
7. "Hazardous Waste Recycling/Disposal: Sharps" *lessismore* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
8. "Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Meds EPR Consent Hearing" Youtube accessed August 2018 [Web](#).