

California Fact Sheet



Pharmaceutical and Sharps EPR Program: Santa Cruz

Rev. 8/7/18

Santa Cruz had a voluntary take back program since 2006, but eventually passed a **Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance** to shift the responsibility onto the manufacturers to fund and manage the pharmaceutical and sharps disposal in the County. The ordinance went into effect August 9, 2016. The County currently has 23 collection sites and requires ALL pharmacies to take back pharmaceuticals and sharps at no charge.¹

Organizing Body: The Ordinance requires pharmaceutical manufacturers selling their products in Santa Cruz to provide residents with a **safe and convenient way** to dispose of unwanted and expired medicines. MED-project operates the Pharmaceutical and Sharps Stewardship Program in Santa Cruz³

MED-Project Medication Education & Disposal

Costs & Funding: The Ordinance requires **ALL costs to be paid by the industry** to operate the safe medicine and sharps disposal program. This means no costs to local governments, pharmacies, or consumers.

Program Facts: The County of Santa Cruz began collecting in 2006, and has safely collected more than **100,000 pounds of meds** and **millions of sharps**.⁴

The Ordinance requires sharps disposal containers to be **provided with ALL sales**.⁴



Collection Locations & Accessibility:

Every retailer and every provider of covered drugs and sharps shall participate in a collection system consistent with the requirements of this Ordinance **free of charge to the consumers.**

A **complete list of collection sites** can be accessed via an interactive map on MED-project's [website](#).

Timeline:

2006: Began Voluntary take back program⁴

2014: Sharps takeback was made mandatory for all sellers.⁴

October 1, 2015: County Board of Supervisors directed staff to initiate the stakeholder process for development of a pharmaceutical and medical sharps EPR ordinance.⁵

December 8, 2015: Ordinance approved with a 5-0 vote.⁵

January 8, 2016: Ordinance goes into effect.⁵



References:

1. "Santa Cruz Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal" *codepublishing* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
2. "MED-Project Santa Cruz County, CA" med-project accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
3. "A Product Stewardship Plan For Unwanted Medicines From Households"
4. "Convenient Collection Sites" *sharpmedsolutions* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
5. "Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Disposal Program" cityofsantacruz accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
6. "Drug and Sharps Takeback Programs" accessed July 2018
7. "City and County Ordinances for Safe Disposal of Sharps and Pharmaceuticals" calpsc accessed July 2018 [Web](#).