

# A Better Place for Pharmaceutical Wastes

*K-State Pharmacy Waste Outreach Program*

# K-State's Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI)

- PPI staff provides environmental compliance and pollution prevention technical assistance
  - Hotline
  - Site visits
  - Workshops
- Staff around the state
  - P2/E2 interns
- Also operate SBEAP in partnership with KDHE
- Complementary special projects enhance SBEAP services (H2E, pharmacy waste outreach)



# History

- K-State PPI working with hospitals since 2002
- In partnership with KDHE completed a LTC pilot assessment and outreach in 2007
- Technical guidance document– 2007
  - Waste management hierarchy
  - Seven steps including collection events and “kitty litter coffee ground method”
  - Drain disposal last resort

# 2008 pilot project

- Identified need and interest in residential outreach program
- Identified partners
  - Sedgwick County – HHW
  - Walgreens and Dillons, other independent retail pharmacies
- Funded by KHF grant in 2008 and 2009 to do outreach program for residential community
  - Sedgwick County - pilot community in 2008
  - 2009 project reached 6 counties

# KHF project

- Program goals
  - Get old drugs out of cabinets (commercials)
  - Education on proper disposal
- Target audience – households via
  - Pharmacies
  - Medical clinics
  - Presentations to senior centers, DAB, other public avenues (TV – city channels), Web sites

# KHF project

- Use a student intern (KU marketing student)
  - Poster education, Sedgwick County complemented by publishing bag fliers or “tear off’s”
  - Present to groups, medical clinic staff, pharmacy staff meetings, senior centers, neighborhood associations
- Sedgwick County focus in 2008
- Disposal options
  - Eliminate drain disposal
  - HHW (when possible)
  - Land fill option

# Never down the drain

***Don't flush medications!***



**Flushing medications can cause contamination to Kansas aquatic life.**

Instead of flushing, Sedgwick County residents can take excess or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications to the local household hazardous waste facility listed below.

**Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
801 Stillwell • Wichita, Kansas  
316-660-7464

**Open Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

This facility CANNOT accept controlled or narcotic substances, such as prescription painkillers like Percocet, or others like Xanax. If you cannot use this local household hazardous waste facility, then follow the Kansas Department of Health and Environment disposal recommendations listed below to prevent purposeful or accidental recovery of these medications.\* Your local retail pharmacies support this water quality protection project.

**Prepare excess medication as follows:**

Crush or dissolve pills in water, coffee, or another liquid. Make a paste of the dissolved pills or liquid medication by adding it to kitty litter or coffee grounds. Put the paste in a closed container, making sure any personal markings are removed. Then put the closed container in the trash.

\* These steps to safe disposal are recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and are detailed in a guidance document available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/guidance/sw07-01.pdf>.

This publication was published by the Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute. For more information, call 800-578-8898.

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper, Forest Stewardship Council certified 



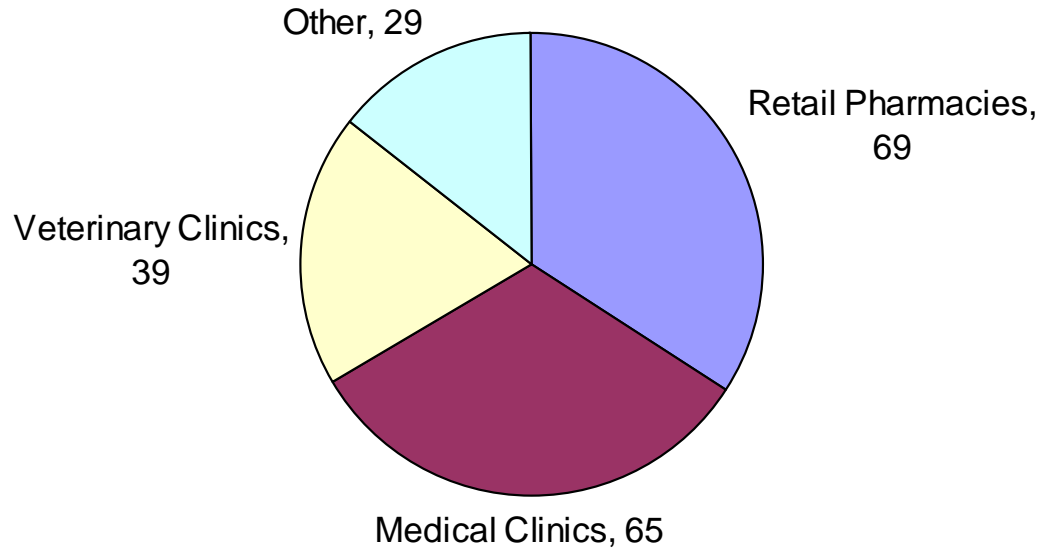
Pharmacy Waste Outreach Program  
October 19, 2009



# 2008 Pharmacy Waste Outreach

- On-site visits to about 200 facilities, primarily retail pharmacies and medical clinics
- Numerous presentations, articles, city Web and TV postings, Derby water bill mailing
- 510 posters
- 740 bag flier tear off packs of 50 to pharmacies
- Response to education was very positive
- HHW reports 35-40% increase in July 2008

## Breakdown of Facilities Visited



*Response rate: 86% extremely favorable*

# Winter 2009 Follow-up

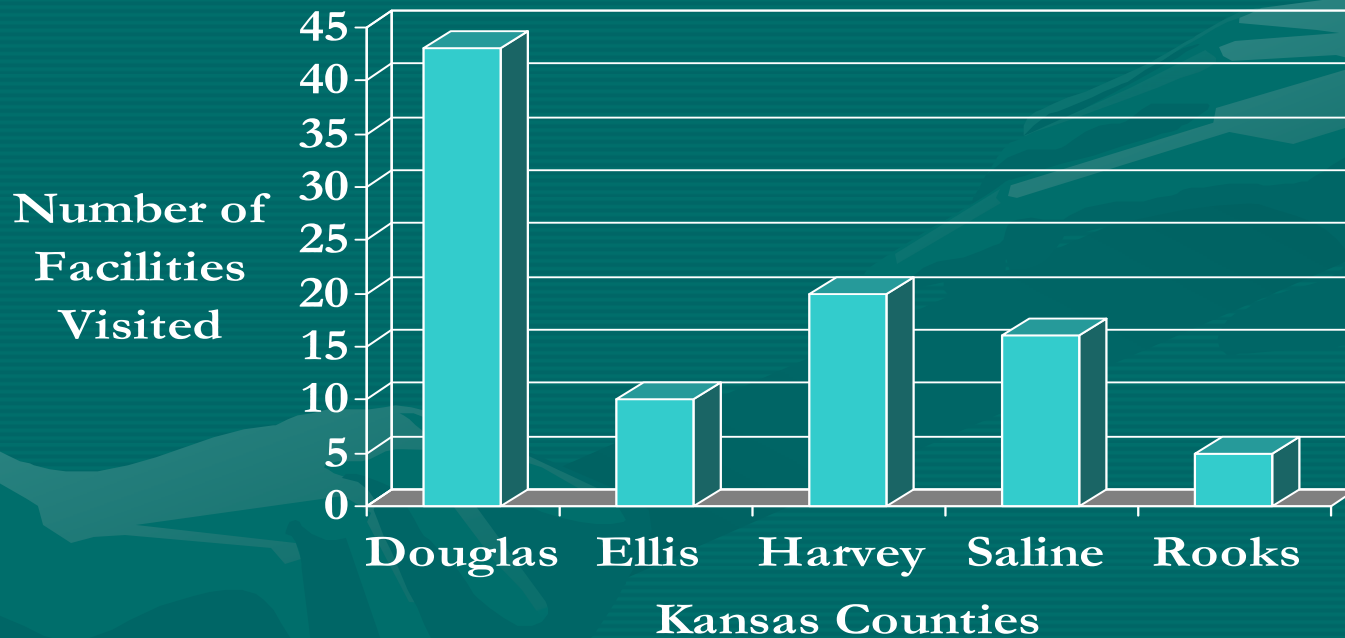
- Wanted to evaluate implementation –
  - Would the posters remain up?
  - Did pharmacy staff like them?
  - Message to public if asked about disposal?
- Two evaluation methods
  - On-site visits and anonymous phone inquiries
  - 96% implementation rate

# Summer 2009 Pharmacy Waste Outreach

- Program expanded to:
  - Douglas, Ellis, Harvey, Saline, and Rooks County
- Continued work in:
  - Sedgwick County
  - 78% implementation in medical clinics
  - Spoke to 12 different group
- Increased media coverage of program.

# Expansion Accomplishments

- Visited 94 retail pharmacies, medical clinics, and public venues.



# Expansion Accomplishments

- Partnered with first sheriff's office collection program in Kansas.
  - Operation Medicine Cabinet
  - Saline County Sheriff's Office
- Harvey County HHW has received 310 pounds of pharmacy waste.
  - Harvey County outreach began in June 2009

# Increased Media Coverage

- Coverage:
  - 3 news paper stories
    - Lawrence Journal-World, Newton Kansan, Harvey County Independent
  - 3 television news stories
    - KSN Noon Segment, Kansas CW Morning Segment, KSN Story on 6pm news
  - 1 radio story on Kansas Public Radio
  - Several newsletter articles across state



Pharmacy Waste Outreach Program  
October 19, 2009



# Social Media Innovation



# Social Media Innovation

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1JxQjIT3B4>
- Dedicated Web page  
<http://www.sbeap.org/PharmWasteOutreach.php>

# Next phase?

- Expand “operation medicine cabinet” model to collection options to include Sheriff programs
  - Sedgwick and Douglas interested
  - Retail pharmacy collect model?

# Suggestions or Questions?

- Environmental hotline  
800-578-8898  
[www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org)
- In Wichita area  
call Nancy at  
316-660-0104

[Nlarson@ksu.edu](mailto:Nlarson@ksu.edu)

