GASTON GOAL

- Decrease the propensity toward the non-medical use/abuse of prescription drugs

- Gaston County ranks third behind Wake County and Mecklenburg County in the unintentional overdose and deaths related to prescription drugs.
Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving Prescription Opioids* by County, 2009-2013

U.S. National Age Adjusted Rate: 5.2 Deaths per 100,000 Population

*Prescription opioids includes opioids and other synthetics, including methadone and prescription pain relievers (ICD-10 codes T40.2 to T40.4).

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death Data on CDC WONDER Online Database, extracted August 5, 2010.
Project Expectations

- Assessment
- Evaluation
- Implementation
- Planning
- Capacity

Sustainability and Cultural Competence
Assessment

- **Community Needs Assessments**: Gaston County Health Dept- Needs assessment 2014; Community readiness assessments and YRBS have been completed in Gaston county.

- **PFS student survey**: Survey of 6th-12th graders in the county; survey of college age students is in development and is scheduled for implementation.
Capacity

Participation in community coalitions

Information dissemination

Communication campaigns
Strategies

Implement Evidence-Based prevention programs to influence

- Social Access
- Perception of Harm
- Ineffective Enforcement
- Availability
- Social Norms
Project Objectives

Inform communities
Affect policies
Change community norms
Project Outcomes

- By 2019, youth will report less social access to Rx drugs for non-medical use.
- By 2019, Rx drug misuse/abuse among middle school students will decrease.
- By 2019, non-medical use of Rx drugs among students will decrease in the last 30 days.
- By 2019, perception of harm related to nonmedical use of Rx drugs among students will increase which results in decreased use.
DISPOSAL in GASTON COUNTY
Operation Medicine Cabinet Statistics

- January 2011 - December 2015
  4,753 pounds of prescription and non-prescription medications have been incinerated.
Throwing out or flushing medicine is dangerous and bad for the environment — medicine can seep into our water supply, be taken accidentally, or even abused. Taking other people’s prescription medicine is a popular trend among teenagers.

Dispose of your old over-the-counter and prescription medicines the right way — drop them off for free at an Operation Medicine Cabinet disposal site:

Gaston County Police Department
Belmont Police Department
Mount Holly Police Department
Dallas Police Department
Cherryville Police Department

Drop boxes are in the lobbies of these buildings, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All medicines are incinerated.

704-866-3320
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS