



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

As part of National Poison Prevention Week, celebrated during the third week of March annually, Safe Kids Jackson County, Jackson County Department of Public Health, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and Jackson County Department on Aging are hosting an Operation Medicine Drop on March 22th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. The event will be a drive thru at the Department on Aging. Community members are encouraged to come and drop off unused, unwanted, or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications which will, in turn, be disposed of properly.

Safe Kids Jackson County hopes that events such as this will ultimately mitigate the number of people involved in poisonings each year, especially poisonings in the home—the most commonly reported poisonings.

During 2018-2019, the Carolinas Poison Center answered 150,389 calls from the public and healthcare providers across North Carolina. 47.97% of cases handled were for children 12 and under. Staff of the Center help callers who needed assistance with the diagnosis, management, and treatment of poisoned patients. Pain relievers, both over-the-counter and prescription, were the most commonly called about drug substance.

National Poison Prevention Week was established by the US Congress in 1961 to focus national attention on the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. To learn more about ways to keep people of all ages safe and help prevent poisonings, visit the Poison Help website at www.poisonhelp.hrsa.gov. In case of a poison emergency, contact the local poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

For questions about the upcoming Operation Medicine Drop, contact Anna Lippard at 828-587-8225.

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