



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 Sheriff's Office, Sylva Police Department, Harris EMS, and Jackson County Department of Public Health are hosting an Operation Medicine Drop on Tuesday, March 21st from 9 AM-12 PM at Food Lion in Sylva. 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.

In 2021, NC Poison Control answered 80,932 calls and chats from the public and healthcare providers across North Carolina. One out of every four calls and chats about poison exposures were from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers needing assistance with the diagnosis, management, and treatment of poisoned patients. Over 2/3 of the people who contacted NC Poison Control (70%) were managed right at the site of the call, which is usually at home. Pain relievers were the most commonly called about drug substance (11,263 cases).

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 Martha Thomasson at 828-587-8257.

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