



Prescription painkillers can be a gateway to heroin

In the span of a single year, from 2009 to 2010, there were **28 heroin overdose deaths** in Livingston County.

How it starts:

- A child hears about kids taking Hydrocodone (Vicodin®) and Oxycodone (Oxycontin®).
- That child finds some of these medications in the home medicine cabinet and decides to try them out.
- The child discovers he likes the way the drug makes him feel.
- The child learns — because most kids know — that he can obtain heroin easily and for less money than prescription drugs.
- The child becomes addicted to heroin.

How it ends:

- **Best case scenario:** The child's future is uncertain; he struggles to overcome addiction for the rest of his life.
- **Worst case scenario:** The child dies from a heroin overdose.

Save kids and the environment.

Dispose all unused medications safely and securely in a **BIG RED** Barrel, **NO COST, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**



Educate. Collect. Dispose.

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The gateway to heroin is a lot closer than you think

Survey says ...

Livingston County youth use alcohol and drugs at rates higher than the national average.

Michigan Department of Education (2014). Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Summary Table: Livingston County High School: Alcohol and Other Drugs.



Six of the top 10 drugs abused by high school seniors are prescription and over-the-counter medications.

The University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future study, 2015

Nearly 13 percent of youths in Livingston County have abused prescription drugs and painkillers in the past 30 days.

Michigan Department of Education (2014). Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Summary Table: Livingston County High School: Alcohol and Other Drugs.

After marijuana, prescription and over-the-counter drugs account for most of the top illicit drugs abused by high school seniors in the past year.

The University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future study, 2015

The Big Red Barrel story

Heroin addiction typically starts with the abuse of prescription medication, specifically heavy painkillers.

After numerous drug overdose deaths in the community, members of the Livingston County Community Alliance wanted a place where people could safely dispose of their unwanted medication. The thinking was that with permanent prescription drug collection units available for community use, prescription drug abuse and heroin use would decrease.

The Drug Enforcement Agency mandates that drug take-back programs be secure at all times.

With help from businesses, local law enforcement agencies, students, and other community members, the LCCA designed collection units that look like big, red barrels. In April 2011, the first ones were placed in the Michigan State Police Department in Brighton, Mich., and at the Livingston County Sheriff's Department. Since then, the Big Red Barrel effort has resulted in the secure and environmentally safe disposal of **2 tons of drugs**.



Dropoffs accepted 24/7:

1. Livingston County Jail, 150 S. Highlander Way, Howell
2. Brighton Police Dept., 440 S. Third St., Brighton
3. Hamburg Twp. Police Dept., 10409 Merrill Road

Dropoff during regular business hours:

4. Fowlerville Police Dept., 213 S. Grand Ave.
5. Green Oak Township Police Dept., 1001 Silver Lake Road, Brighton
6. Howell Police Dept., 611 E. Grand River Ave.
7. Michigan State Police Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton
8. Pinckney Police Dept., 220 S. Howell St.
9. Unadilla Twp. Police Dept., 126 Webb St., Gregory

All pills accepted, loose or in plastic bags.

Liquids accepted only if stuffed in a zip-lock plastic bag with enough paper towels to absorb all the liquid. Separate bags for each medication.

No inhalers or syringes.

OR

Any State Police Post in Michigan

