

CVS Pharmacy fighting opioid abuse by expanding drug disposal program

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By David Baker CONNECT

PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) - CVS Pharmacy says it is doing what it can to fight the opioid crisis and is expanding its safe medication disposal program.

In the announcement made on Wednesday, the company said it will add 13 medication disposal units at CVS Pharmacy stores around the state of Arizona.

For the locations to safely drop off unwanted drugs, [head to their website](#).

[SPECIAL SECTION: [Opioid crisis in Arizona](#)]

About 750 disposal units will be added to CVS Pharmacy locations nationwide.

"The recent addition like pharmacy locations like CVS provides another tool in our toolbox to provide other options to make sure we dispose of medications," said Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich.

The pharmacy said it has been working with law enforcement about drug disposal since 2014 and said the company has helped safely dispose of more than 159 metric tons of opioids. Many local law enforcement agencies allow people to drop off opioids and other drugs at their stations.

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CVS Pharmacy also announced it's supporting two Arizona nonprofit organizations that are fighting and preventing opioid abuse. [ICAN](#), a family-centered youth service group in Chandler, will receive a \$25,000 grant for its substance abuse prevention program. [El Rio Health in Tucson](#), Arizona's largest federally qualified community health center, will also receive \$85,000 from CVS Pharmacy to provide prescribers with support and education to help their patients manage chronic pain and substance abuse.

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