



# NEWS RELEASE

Yuma Police Department  
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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
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### National Take Back Initiative

Yuma, AZ –

The Yuma Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Yuma Police Department, 1500 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue on **Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The service is free, and anonymous. We will not ask or request for your identification. We are unable to accept syringes, sharps, liquid products, or illegal drugs due to the hazardous conditions they create for the personnel destroying the pharmaceuticals.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards.

**Information Released By:** Officer Christina Fernandez