<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix - Demographics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Study Objectives & Methodology**

**Study Objectives**
- MED-Project desires to assess the awareness of its medicine collection program and determine the effectiveness of MED-Project’s outreach among residents and healthcare providers in King County, Washington (“King County”).
- MED-Project commissioned a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of its initiatives.

**Study Design**
- 1,027 residents and 305 healthcare providers in King County were surveyed between March 12th and April 16th 2019.
- Residents were surveyed via phone and web to minimize sampling bias.
- Healthcare providers (doctors, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, pharmacy technicians, veterinarians, or health office administrators) were surveyed via phone and/or email depending on what is required to obtain the required response for the survey sample size.

**Sampling & Analysis**
- Sampling was done at random from lists of residents and healthcare providers in King County.
- When the surveys were complete, the raw data was analyzed and cleaned to remove incomplete surveys. The data was then analyzed at a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 3.1% (for residents) and 5.6% (for healthcare providers), which means that if the same survey was conducted 100 times, we are confident that 95 out of 100 times the results would fall within what we are reporting, plus or minus 3.1% (for residents) or 5.6% (for healthcare providers).
## Executive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 49% of King County residents remember having been exposed to messaging recently about safely storing/disposing of unwanted and/or expired medicines.</td>
<td>- 54% of King County healthcare providers have been exposed to messaging in the past year on safely storing/disposing of unwanted and/or expired medicines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 35% of those who have recently been exposed to messaging saw it on television.</td>
<td>- King County healthcare providers most commonly mention television and businesses/pharmacies/other providers as the channels through which they remember having received messaging on safely storing/disposing of unwanted and/or expired medicines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal Method</td>
<td>- 38% of King County residents have used drop-off locations, mail-back, or in-home disposal methods to dispose of medicines. 57% of those residents have used drop-off locations.</td>
<td>- 62% of King County healthcare providers encourage patients to safely store and dispose of unwanted and/or expired medicines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>- 79% of King County residents who have used drop-off programs believe the drop-off program is easy to use, and 73% of the same group of residents believe locations are easy to locate.</td>
<td>- 54% of King County healthcare providers believe the drop-off program is easy to use. 48% of healthcare providers believe its locations are easy to locate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
</tr>
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</table>
49% of King County residents remember having recently been exposed to messaging about safely storing and disposing of unwanted and/or expired medicines.

King County Residents’ Exposure to Messaging

* n = 1,027

- Yes: 49%
- No: 45%
- Don’t know / Don’t remember: 6%

Q7: Have you recently read, seen, and/or heard anything about safe storage and disposal of unwanted/expired medicines in King County?

King County Residents’ Depth of Exposure to Messaging

* n = 504

- A lot: 27%
- A little: 71%
- Don’t know / Don’t remember: 2%

Q8: About how much would you say you’ve read, seen, and/or heard about the safe storage and disposal of unwanted or expired medicines in King County? (asked only if respondent answered “Yes” to Q7)
King County Residents have most commonly received information on the safe storage and disposal of unwanted and/or expired medicines through television.

### King County Residents’ Communication Channels

**Channels of Past Exposure**  
*n = 504*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People and Events</th>
<th>Hospitals / pharmacies</th>
<th>26%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friends / family</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Broadcast Media**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Television</th>
<th>35%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Printed Materials**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Signs / posters</th>
<th>15%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newspapers / magazines / journals</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Resources**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Online / local media</th>
<th>12%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electronic Messages**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text message</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preferred Method of Exposure**  
*n = 1,027*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hospitals / pharmacies</th>
<th>15%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friends / family</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Bus/train ads were not included as a default option in Q9 so were written in by respondents as an “other” option.

**Q9:** Where did you receive this information about the safe storage and disposal of unwanted or expired medicines in King County? (asked only if respondent answered “Yes” to Q7)

**Q13:** What would be your preferred method for receiving important information about how and where to dispose of unwanted or expired medications?

**Note:** Bus/train ads were not included as a default option in Q13 so is not included in the “Preferred Method of Exposure” chart.
38% of King County residents have used drop-off locations, in-home disposal methods, or mail-back to dispose of unwanted and/or expired medicines in the past year.

**King County Residents’ Medicine Disposal Behaviors (past 12 months)**
*n = 1,027*

- 38% Have used drop-off locations, mail-back, or in-home disposal methods to dispose of unwanted/expired medicines in the past year *(n=387)*
- 60% Have not disposed of medicines/not used drop-off locations, mail-back, or in-home disposal methods to dispose of medicines in the past year *(n=616)*
- 2% I don’t know/don’t remember *(n=24)*

**King County Residents’ Medicine Disposal Methods Used (past 12 months)**
*n = 387*

- 57% Drop-off locations
- 51% In-home disposal
- 5% Mail-back services

Q10: Have you used any of the following services to dispose of unwanted or expired medicines in the past year? – NOTE: Select all that apply (i.e. respondents could select more than one of the disposal options)

The “Disposal Methods Used” graph excludes “I don’t know/don’t remember” responses from counts.
79% of King County residents who have used drop-off programs consider them easy to use and 73% consider the programs easy to locate.

King County Residents’ Description of Drop-off Program

Percent of respondents who felt that the phrases “Easy to Use” or “Easy to Locate” described the medicine drop-off program “Very Well” or “Somewhat Well” (n=230)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Easy to use</th>
<th>79%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy to locate</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

King County Residents’ Level of Concern

Percent of respondents who said the statement makes them ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’ (n = 1,027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Concern Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Someone being accidentally poisoned by taking unwanted and/or expired medicines that are stored in homes</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone abusing unwanted and/or expired medicines that are stored in homes</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q11: Next, I’m going to read you a list of phrases that may or may not describe the medicine drop-off programs that currently exist in King County. Please tell me whether you feel each phrase describes the medicine drop-off program very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not well at all. If you don’t know, or have no opinion, please tell me that too. (asked only if respondent answered “Drop-off locations” to Q10): “Easy to locate.” and “Easy to use.”

Q12: Next, I’m going to read you a list of statements about unwanted or expired medicine in your home. After I read each statement, please tell me whether it is something that makes you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned: “Someone being accidentally poisoned by taking unwanted or expired medicines that are stored in homes.” and “Someone abusing unwanted or expired medicines that are stored in homes.”
## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Awareness</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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</table>
54% of King County healthcare providers have recently been exposed to messaging about safely storing and/or disposing of medicines and 62% of healthcare providers encourage patients to safely store and/or dispose of medicines.

Q5: Have you read, seen, or heard anything recently about the opportunity for King County residents to safely store and dispose of unwanted or expired medicines in King County?

Q7: Have you encouraged your patients or clients to safely store and dispose of unwanted or expired medicines?
Of the 54% of King County healthcare providers who remember having been exposed to messaging about safe storage/disposal of medicines, 20% were exposed through businesses/pharmacies or TV.

King County Healthcare Providers’ Exposure to Messaging
n = 305

- Exposed to messaging: 54%
- Not exposed to messaging: 44%
- Don’t know: 2%

King County Healthcare Providers’ Communication Channels
n = 164

- People and Events: 2%
  - Family / friends / colleagues: 4%
- Broadcast Media: 20%
  - Television: 20%
  - Radio: 7%
- Printed Materials: 20%
  - Newspapers / magazines / journals: 7%
  - Signs / posters: 6%
  - Brochures / flyers: 6%
  - Direct mail / letter: 2%
- Online Resources: 11%
  - Online / local media: 11%
  - Social media: 5%
- Electronic Messages: 2%
  - Email: 2%

Q5: Have you read, seen, or heard anything recently about the opportunity for King County residents to safely store and dispose of unwanted or expired medicines in King County?

Q6: Where did you read, see, or hear information about the safe storage and disposal of unwanted or expired medicines in King County? (asked only if respondent answered “Yes” to Q5)

NOTE: Bus/train ads were not included as a default option in Q6 so were written in by respondents as an “other” option.
54% of King County healthcare providers feel drop-off programs are easy to use. 48% of healthcare providers feel the programs are easy to locate.

King County Healthcare Providers’ Description of Drop-off Program
Percent of respondents who felt that the phrases “Easy to Use” or “Easy to Locate” described the medicine drop off program “Very Well” or “Somewhat Well” (n = 305)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Easy to use</th>
<th>Easy to locate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

King County Healthcare Providers’ Level of Concern
Percent of respondents who said the statement makes them ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’ (n = 305)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unwanted or Expired Medicine in the Home</th>
<th>Concern Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Someone being accidentally poisoned by taking unwanted or expired medicines that are stored in homes</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone abusing unwanted and/or expired medicines that are stored in homes</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q8: Please indicate how well you feel each following phrase describes the medicine disposal programs that currently exist in King County: “Easy to locate” and “Easy to use.”
Q9: Please carefully read the list of statements about unwanted or expired medicine in the home. Please indicate your level of concern regarding each statement as it relates to unwanted or expired medicine in the home: “Someone being accidentally poisoned by taking unwanted or expired medicines that are stored in homes” and “Someone abusing unwanted or expired medicines that are stored in homes.”
# Table of Contents

- Executive Summary
- Resident Awareness
- Provider Awareness
- Appendix - Demographics
Appendix: King County Resident Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

- White or Caucasian: 60%
- Asian: 18%
- Hispanic or Latino: 10%
- Black or African-American: 7%
- Native American: 1%
- Pacific Islander: 1%
- Other: 3%

Time in King County

- 0 - 1 Years: 2%
- 2 - 5 Years: 8%
- 6 - 10 Years: 10%
- 11 - 20 Years: 22%
- 21+ Years: 57%

Age

- 18 - 29: 11%
- 30 - 49: 35%
- 50 - 64: 37%
- 65 - 100+: 16%

Living Situation

- Rent: 32%
- Own: 68%

Q3: Do you own or rent your place of residence?
Q4: Please select your age from the following ranges:
Q5: For how long have you lived in King County?
Q6: With which racial or ethnic group do you identify?
Appendix: King County Healthcare Provider Demographics

Healthcare Provider Type

Healthcare Provider Type: 
- Health Office Administrator: 48%
- Pharmacist: 11%
- Doctor: 10%
- Pharmacy Technician: 9%
- Dentist: 7%
- Nurse: 6%
- Physician Assistant: 5%
- Nurse Practitioner: 2%
- Veterinarian: 2%

n = 305

Practice Time in King County

Practice Time in King County: 
- Less than 2 years: 6%
- 2-10 years: 22%
- More than 10 years: 73%

n = 305

Q2: What is your profession?
Q4: How long has your practice been in King County?