

***Don't flush medications!***



# United States Geological Survey findings

- **Pharmaceutical chemicals** have been found in more than **80% of streams** sampled downstream of waste water treatment plants.

- Pharmaceutical chemicals like:

- Steroids

- Hormones

- Ibuprofen

# Flushing can negatively affect the environment!



- Down the toilet is no longer recommended.
- Technique is negatively impacting development of aquatic life in our water bodies.

# Goals of Program

1. Eliminate stockpiles of old and excess prescription and over-the-counter medications
2. Provide an environmentally friendly alternative method for proper disposal

# Instead of flushing, residents can

- Take medication to the Lyon County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 3000 West South Avenue
  - Cannot take “controlled” substances and narcotics
  - The facility cannot accept “sharps”

# Instead of flushing, residents can

- Use the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommended **kitty litter or coffee ground method.**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Crush
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Add water
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Mix
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Close
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Trash

# Child safety

- Proper disposal of old and excess medications eliminates possible substance abuse among children, teens, or others.

# Issue of Control

- We cannot control
  - What we excrete.
    - Pharmaceuticals arguably improve quality of life.
- We can control
  - How we dispose of our pharmaceuticals.

# Questions...

- If you have questions about pharmacy waste disposal, contact Nancy Larson, director of the Pollution Prevention Institute at Kansas State University.
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