According to the Centers for Disease Control, unintentional poisoning is now the leading cause of injury death for all age groups. This includes overdoses of drugs or chemicals and the mistaken over use of drugs or chemicals by toddlers, teens or adults. Unintentional poisoning has surpassed motor vehicle traffic fatalities as the leading cause of injury death in the U.S. every year since 2008.

To combat this problem, Walgreens, a CSG Associate member, has installed more than 1,000 safe medication disposal kiosks at its pharmacies across 45 states and the District of Columbia. Individuals can safely and privately dispose of their unwanted, unused or expired prescriptions, including controlled substances, and over-the-counter medications during pharmacy hours at no cost.

Walgreens is working with healthcare organizations AmerisourceBergen, Pfizer and Prime Therapeutics to further expand its safe medication disposal program to 1,500 drugstores nationwide. The response to Walgreens’ initiative has been positive. Walgreens has collected and safely disposed of more than 400 tons of unwanted medications since the program began in 2016.

“Safe medication disposal is the best way to ensure medications are not accidently or intentionally misused and we will continue to expand our program as part of our overall efforts to combat the opioid epidemic,” said Rick Gates, Walgreens senior vice president of pharmacy and healthcare.

Associates in Action articles highlight CSG Associates’ philanthropic efforts and public-private partnerships throughout the states.