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## **CVS Selling Expired Products, Violating Health Codes in Indianapolis**

Indianapolis, Indiana – A new study released today shows 50% of local CVS drugstores surveyed are selling expired products, among other issues. In reaction to the news, a delegation of community and faith leaders held a demonstration outside a local CVS pharmacy on Thursday to challenge CVS’s practice of repeatedly selling products past their expiration dates and violating health codes.

Community leaders stood behind a table covered in expired goods recently purchased in CVS stores in the Metro Indianapolis area and issued a warning to consumers.

“When I give my child medication, I need to trust that medicine is safe and effective – and expired medicines could be neither of these things. CVS needs to do its part to make sure children are protected from these potentially dangerous substances and commit to seeing all expired goods taken off its shelves,” said Heather Meloy, student at Indiana University – Perdue University at Indianapolis.

### **Expired Goods for Sale in 50% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed**

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at more than half of CVS stores surveyed in Metro Indianapolis. Surveyors visited 46 of the 122 local CVS stores. These expired goods included over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, and milk products.

Thirty seven percent of CVS stores surveyed sold expired medication, including infant medication that was more than a year past its expiration date that was purchased at the CVS store at 2320 Cunningham Road in Indianapolis. CVS-brand allergy relief caplets expired since November 2008 were purchased at CVS stores at 711 E. Jefferson in Tipton, and at 10580 E. 96<sup>th</sup> Street in Fishers.

More than one quarter of CVS stores surveyed sold expired infant formula, including a container of Enfamil Lipil infant formula that was four months past its expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 9550 Allisonville Road in Indianapolis.

### **CVS “Goods Gone Bad”**

The website [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org) asks customers who observe expired products for sale in CVS stores to upload a photo and submit their story to the online gallery of “CVS Goods Gone Bad” where they can also sign a petition urging CVS to clean up its act.

### **CVS Fails Health Department Inspections**

Marion County Health Department inspectors found expired infant formula in more than a quarter of its store inspections (27%). CVS was cited for dirty milk coolers or for broken refrigerator thermometers more than half (52%) of the time. CVS was cited 40% of the time for violations that the inspectors concluded were ‘critical’.

### **Condoms Under Lock and Key in Communities of Color**

Condoms were observed under lock and key in more than ten percent of the Metro Indianapolis CVS stores visited. Despite CVS’s claim that all stores with locked condoms have some unlocked packages available, all the condoms were locked up and inaccessible without staff assistance at all five stores.

The stores with condom lock-up are also located in areas with the largest proportions of residents of color in Metro Indianapolis. All condoms are under lock and key in one-third of the CVS stores visited in zip codes with majority residents of color (3 of 9 stores). In zip codes with smaller proportions of color, less than six percent of stores surveyed had condoms locked up (2 of 36 stores).

“The Greater Indianapolis NAACP is proud to join health care advocates on the campaign to Cure CVS. The NAACP is incensed by the practices of CVS Caremark Corporation which put expired medicine on store shelves and limit access to condoms, especially in neighborhoods with higher portions people of color. Their practices are dangerous and show a flagrant disregard for the welfare of our community. We ask the community to take a stand by joining efforts to Cure CVS. The Greater Indianapolis NAACP will continue to be a partner on this campaign and any other practices that discriminate against communities of color,” said President Chrystal Elliott.

### **Indianapolis CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern**

The CVS protest in Indianapolis today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Newark, New Jersey; Bridgeport, Connecticut and near CVS’s corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. Surveyors recently visited 310 CVS stores operating in 9 states and found expired infant formula, dairy and/or medication for sale at

just over 58 percent, or 180 stores surveyed. Demonstrations are taking place today in all 9 of these states, including Indiana.

Today's actions come on the heels of dozens of community demonstrations outside CVS stores in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Miami, and in Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Ana, California over the last few weeks and months – all over similar issues with CVS Caremark Corp.

Last June, California Attorney General Jerry Brown criticized CVS for selling expired products at dozens of stores in Southern California, saying the practice violated laws against deceptive advertising and unfair business practices. The New York State Attorney General has sued CVS to stop the company from selling expired goods. CVS's offering expired products for sale poses "serious, even life-threatening consequences" to CVS customers, according to the Office of New York Attorney General Cuomo.

For more information visit [www.CureCVSNow.org](http://www.CureCVSNow.org)

**Cure CVS** is an initiative by Change to Win and partner organizations to reform the drugstore industry, starting with CVS, the country's leading provider of prescription drugs and largest drugstore chain. By joining concerned citizen groups with the six million members of Change to Win unions, Cure CVS aims to ensure that CVS provides equal access across all communities and income levels to its stores and services, offers fair and accurate prices, provides quality products and services, protects customers' privacy and puts quality pharmacy care first.

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