

**SURVEY ON HANDLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE
DISPOSAL IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN NAIROBI,
KENYA**

A CASE OF NAIROBI CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Pharmaceutical waste is waste consisting of/ or containing pharmaceuticals which have expired or are no longer needed and their containers or items containing or contaminated with pharmaceuticals.

The purpose of this research was to-determine the handling and disposal of pharmaceutical waste products in community pharmacies in Nairobi, Kenya. The study was carried out in Nairobi Central Business District (CBD). The research design used was across sectional survey that generated data that helped to articulate the current perceptions and anecdotes regarding improper disposal of pharmaceuticals waste.

The target population 30 community pharmacies and constituted all pharmacies in the region which are registered. The sample size was picked using stratified random sampling. The strata was the city center area. The data collection was done using questionnaire, interview, desk reviews and the data collected was analyzed using computer software SPSS and Microsoft excel, study presented by use of tablets histograms and percentage.

The research findings shows that more than half of pharmaceutical waste generated in community pharmacy outlets comes from expired drugs. While a third of all wastes can be attributed to damaged, contaminated and spoiled products.

The respondents have the knowledge that environmentally hazardous methods of disposal such as open dumping, sewer disposal and burning in the open is still practiced and all these practices have threats to human health and environment

The researcher recommends to bodies concerned like NEMA, PBB to provide training to staff on safe and effective ways of disposing pharmaceutical wastes also waste disposal or pharmaceutical products should be introduced to health institutions as a subject. *Pharmacy and poison board should enhance surveillance and ensure disposal guidelines and policies are adhered to by community pharmacies. The study recommends further research to cover both rural health centre and hospitals pharmacies. This will give more realistic picture on the pharmacy sector as whole. The study restricted itself on the staff at the pharmacies, there happens to be another big gap in the way used pharmaceuticals and personal care products are disposed at home.