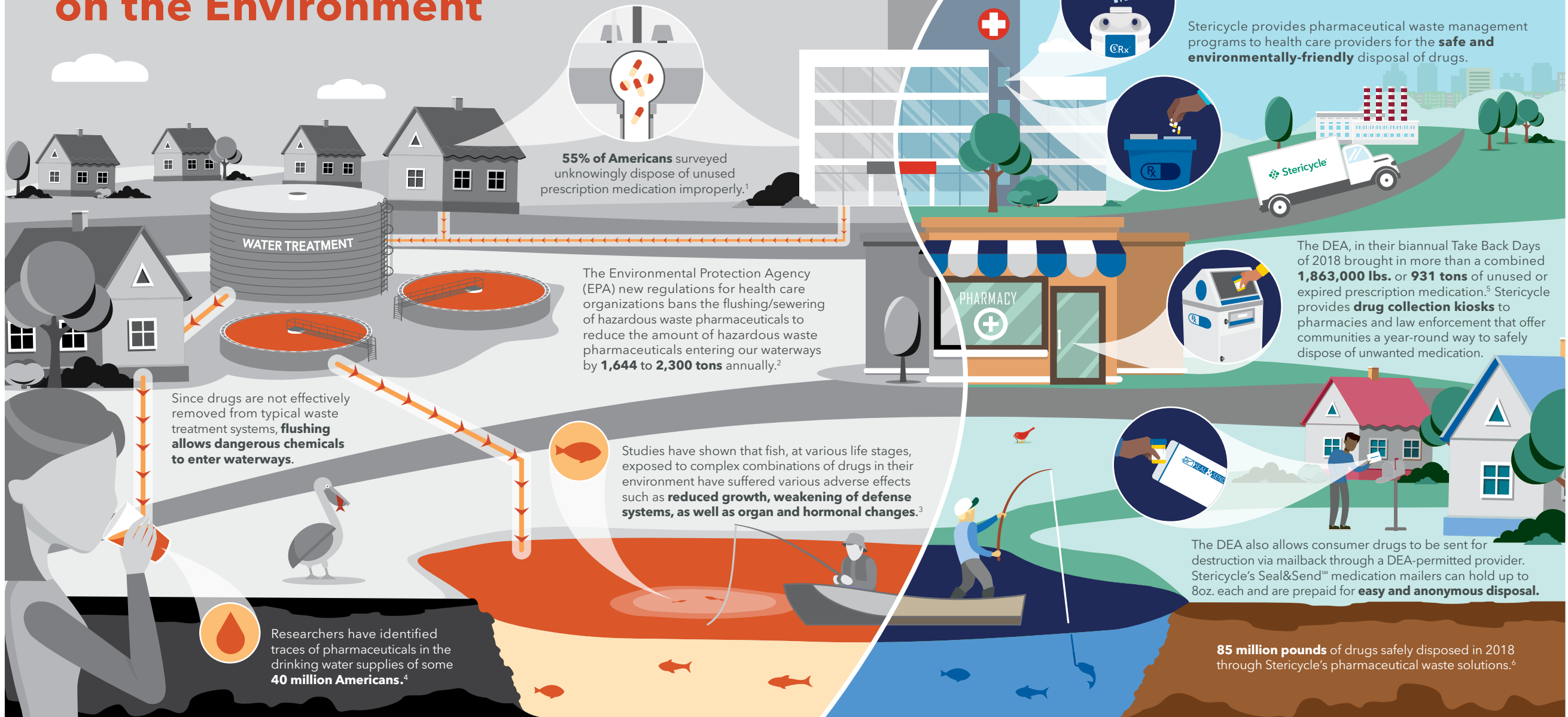


Impact of Pharmaceutical Waste on the Environment



55% of Americans surveyed unknowingly dispose of unused prescription medication improperly.¹

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) new regulations for health care organizations bans the flushing/sewering of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to reduce the amount of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals entering our waterways by **1,644 to 2,300 tons** annually.²

Since drugs are not effectively removed from typical waste treatment systems, **flushing allows dangerous chemicals to enter waterways.**

Studies have shown that fish, at various life stages, exposed to complex combinations of drugs in their environment have suffered various adverse effects such as **reduced growth, weakening of defense systems, as well as organ and hormonal changes.**³

Researchers have identified traces of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplies of some **40 million Americans.**⁴

Proper Disposal Methods

Stericycle provides pharmaceutical waste management programs to health care providers for the **safe and environmentally-friendly** disposal of drugs.

The DEA, in their biannual Take Back Days of 2018 brought in more than a combined **1,863,000 lbs. or 931 tons** of unused or expired prescription medication.⁵ Stericycle provides **drug collection kiosks** to pharmacies and law enforcement that offer communities a year-round way to safely dispose of unwanted medication.

The DEA also allows consumer drugs to be sent for destruction via mailback through a DEA-permitted provider. Stericycle's Seal&SendSM medication mailers can hold up to 8oz. each and are prepaid for **easy and anonymous disposal.**

85 million pounds of drugs safely disposed in 2018 through Stericycle's pharmaceutical waste solutions.⁶

We protect what matters.

 Stericycle[®]

Sources:

1. Patient Safety Survey, Stericycle data, 2019.
2. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Hazardous Waste Generators, <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/final-rule-management-standards-hazardous-waste-pharmaceuticals-and-amendment-p075>, accessed 4/4/2019.
3. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, <https://setac.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1897/08-556.1>, accessed 4/4/2019.
4. CBS News, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/probe-pharmaceuticals-in-drinking-water/>, accessed 4/4/2019.
5. Get Smart About Drugs, <https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/content/national-take-back-day>, accessed 4/4/2019.
6. Stericycle annual data, 2018.