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## **CVS Selling Expired Products, Locking Condoms in Atlanta**

### **Warning to Consumers Issued by Community Leaders**

Atlanta, Georgia – A new study released today shows 69% 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 today to challenge CVS's practice of repeatedly selling products past their expiration dates and locking up condoms, often in communities of color.

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 Georgia.

Community leaders stood behind a table covered in expired goods recently purchased in CVS stores in the Metro Atlanta area and issued a warning to consumers. Janice Mathis of Rainbow PUSH joined State Representative Rashad Taylor, State Senator Vincent Ford, Minister Kendall Richardson and others in the demonstration outside CVS.

### **Expired Goods for Sale in 69% of Local CVS Stores Surveyed**

In the last few weeks, surveyors found expired products at more than two of every three CVS stores surveyed in Metro Atlanta. Surveyors visited 52 of the 178 local CVS stores. These expired goods included over-the-counter medicines, infant formula, and milk products.

More than ten percent of CVS stores surveyed sold expired infant formula, including a container of Prosobee Lipil infant formula that was three months past its expiration date, purchased at the CVS store at 12 Broad Street in Atlanta.

Sixty-five percent of CVS stores surveyed sold expired medication, including two boxes of CVS-brand allergy relief medication that were more than two years past their expiration dates and that were purchased at CVS stores located at 5304 N. Buford Hwy in Norcross and 3030 Headland Drive in Atlanta.

### **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.

## **Locked Condoms Found in CVS Stores Operating in Communities of Color**

CVS also keeps condoms under lock and key in at one out of every five Metro Atlanta CVS stores visited. In six of the eleven stores with condoms under lock and key, all the condoms are inaccessible without staff assistance, despite CVS's claim that all stores have some unlocked packages available. This requires customers to ask for staff assistance to buy condoms, which creates a barrier and stigmatization of condoms and condom users, according to public health advocates.

The survey, conducted this April and May, suggests that Metro Atlanta stores with condom lockup are also more likely located in areas with the greatest concentration of people of color, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. For example, in zip codes where more than 95% of the local residents are people of color – such as near the CVS store at 2237 Cascade Rd. SW in Atlanta – CVS locked up all condoms. In areas where people of color compose 20 percent or less of the population, CVS surveyed stores did not lock up the condoms.

“Our community deserves fair and equal access to condoms, but CVS's practice of keeping condoms under lock and key shows not only that it does not value the health of its customers, but that it also does not value our community. CVS needs to unlock condoms here, in its stores across the country, and begin respecting the communities it claims to serve,” said Minister Kendall Richardson, a community leader who participated in the demonstration on Thursday.

HIV/AIDS is the number one killer of black American women between the ages of 25 and 34. HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of death for Latinos. The rate of new HIV infections among Latinos is three times the rate among whites.

“Our inner-city neighborhoods deserve better. CVS's practice of putting condoms under lock and key is undermining our community efforts to promote condom use. On top of that, it's just not right that CVS is selling expired infant formula and medication. This is part of a pattern with CVS that they need to address,” said State Senator Vincent Fort, who participated in the demonstration.

## **Atlanta CVS Troubles Reflect National Pattern**

The CVS protest in Atlanta today comes as community leaders also demonstrated outside CVS stores in Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Newark, New Jersey; Stamford, Connecticut and near CVS's corporate headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. Today's actions in 9 states 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 – all over similar issues with CVS Caremark Corp.

Last June, 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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