Never take prescription opioids in greater amounts than directed.

Always let doctors know of any side effects.

Avoid taking with alcohol or other substances, medications.

Do not share or sell your prescription opioids.

Store them in a secure place, out of sight and out of reach.

A majority of prescription drug abusers report stealing opioid and narcotic medications, such as OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet, from their family and friends.

When abusers can no longer afford prescription medications, they gravitate toward street drugs, such as heroin, which can be laced with many drugs, most of which can be lethal.

If you know someone who may be abusing drugs, assist them in finding help.

Call the PROJECT D.U.M.P. HOTLINE, 412-459-5000 and schedule an appointment for an Allegheny County Sheriff’s Office Evidence Technician to pick-up unwanted prescription medications at your home.

*Following recovery, all seized medications are legally disposed of through evidence destruction orders.
According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the most commonly abused prescription drugs include depressants, opioids, and stimulants. Our goal is to reduce the opportunity for these medications to be abused by current or future users.

From 2008-2020, over 5000 unneeded deaths occurred in Allegheny County due to the abuse of prescription and street drugs.

From 2016-2020, the Sheriff’s Office has continued to remove and safely dispose over four tons of medication. Such medications include, but are not limited to Klonopin, Morphine, and Oxycontin.

**OVERDOSE DATA IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

- 68% of overdose deaths were males.
- 83% of overdose deaths were caucasian.
- The most affected age range was 25 - 54 with 75% of the total overdose deaths.
- The most affected zip codes in Allegheny County:
  - 15210 (277)
  - 15212 (238)
  - 15136 (164)
  - 15235 (145)
  - 15216 (141)
- The drug found present the most in overdose deaths was heroin (47%), fentanyl (43.8%), cocaine (34.8%), ethanol (31.4%), and Alprazolam (14.2%)

In Allegheny County, more people died last year from drug overdoses than homicides, suicides and car accidents put together.

- Dr. Karl Williams,
  Allegheny County Medical Examiner