The abuse of opioid medications can lead to addiction, overdose and death.

By properly disposing of unused and expired narcotic prescription medications, you can keep potentially dangerous substances away from individuals susceptible to drug abuse.

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

Misuse of prescription pain relievers can lead to dependence and heroin use.

Drug take-back programs are among the safest options for disposing of unused prescription drugs, which should never be thrown in the trash, flushed down the toilet or left around the house for others to access.

Project D.U.M.P. is available to residents living in Allegheny County. Telephone the program hotline at 412.459.5000.

Following recovery, all seized medications are legally disposed of through evidence destruction orders.

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