



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## PROJECT D.U.M.P. AIMS TO HELP PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

(ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA) – In response to the prescription opiate and heroin pandemic that continues to besiege the country, having already victimized countless Allegheny County individuals and families in its wake, the Sheriff's Office has implemented an initiative to help residents safely eliminate unused and expired narcotic medications. Through Project D.U.M.P., short for the Disposal of Unused Medications Properly, Allegheny County citizens can contact a Sheriff's Office Evidence Custodian, who will report to their residence and take possession of any unwanted medications. The Sheriff's Office hopes this program will help curtail opioid and heroin related overdoses and overdose deaths in Allegheny County.

"It is well established the abuse of opioid medications can lead to addiction, overdose and death. Studies also confirm the path of substance abuse for a large fraction of current heroin users began with the abuse of opioid medications," said Sheriff William Mullen. "Project D.U.M.P. is both a literal and figurative vehicle to keep unused prescription drugs away from individuals who may potentially abuse them."

Since the project started in April, Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician Deputy Joseph Cirigliano has confiscated nearly 500 pills from Allegheny County residents. The Sheriff's Office stresses drug take-back programs are among the safest options for disposing of unused prescription narcotics, and that medications such as Vicodin, Percocet and Oxycontin should not be thrown in the trash, flushed down the toilet or left around the house for others to access.

Allegheny County residents wanting to make an appointment for a sworn Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician to pick-up medication at their homes are invited to telephone the Project D.U.M.P. Hotline at 412-459-5000. Following recovery, all seized medications are legally disposed of through evidence destruction orders.

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