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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman
CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Recognizing August 31, 2021, as “International Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey

January 18, 2022

WHEREAS, August 31st, International Overdose Awareness Day, is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind; and

WHEREAS, the theme of International Overdose Awareness Day 2021 is once again *Time to Remember, Time to Act*, with the goal of raising awareness of overdose, which is one of the world’s worst public health crises, and to stimulate action and discussion about evidence-based overdose prevention and drug policy; and

WHEREAS, according to the NIH, 70,630 drug-involved overdose deaths were reported in the United States in 2019, 68% among males, with synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl, being the main driver of drug overdose deaths, with a nearly 14-fold increase from 2012 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, overdose deaths exploded to more than 90,000 in 2020, Covid-19 increasing total overdose deaths by more than 300,000, with synthetic opioids involved in more than 60% of all overdose deaths, and though White individuals had higher rates of drug overdose deaths than Black individuals through 2013, that gap had nearly disappeared by 2019, with the trend worsening during the pandemic, overdose deaths in Black individuals increasing by 45% during 2020, nearly double the growth for overdose deaths in White individuals; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, over half a million deaths are attributable to drug use, with more than 70% related to opioids; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remains committed to educating communities across New Jersey about overdose and combatting the related stigma.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes August 31, 2021 as “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.

Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman

January 18, 2022
Date