



# State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

CELINA LEVY  
*Executive Director*

## RESOLUTION

**Recognizing August 31, 2024, as  
“International Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey**

**September 17, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) – held on **August 31** every year – is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for IOAD 2024 is “**Together we can,**” highlighting the power of community when we all stand together; and

**WHEREAS**, an international crisis of drug overdose has seen drug overdose deaths increasing significantly over the last twenty years in many parts of the world, with a yearly record number of deaths reported, predominantly driven by the misuse of opioids, often in combination with other drugs including benzodiazepines, stimulants and alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yielded an estimate of 105,303 drug overdose deaths in the United States, a decrease of 2 percent from 2022, with two-thirds of these deaths involved synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl; and

**WHEREAS**, IOAD is driven by the following principles: overdose can and must be prevented, overdose prevention tools exist and should be used, criminalizing drug use hasn’t worked and compassionate alternatives must be pursued, policy and legislation must exist to protect individuals and communities and ensure basic human rights and needs are met, everyone has a right to respectful and compassionate healthcare, and, only a community-wide effort can end overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder and its Alliance to Prevent Substance Use Disorder remain committed to educating communities across New Jersey about overdose prevention employing these pillars while combatting the devastating stigma related to substance use disorders.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder hereby recognizes August 31, 2024, 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; NCAAR, County Alcohol and Drug Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.

Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman

September 17, 2024

Date