



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
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TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

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Executive Director

RESOLUTION

**Recognizing August 31, 2025, as
“International Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey**

September 16, 2025

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

WHEREAS, the theme for IOAD 2025 is “**One Big Family, Driven by Hope**” focusing on the importance of collective action and compassion in addressing the overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is driven by the knowledge that only a community-wide effort can end overdose, embracing the following principles: overdose can and must be prevented; overdose prevention solutions exist – let’s use them; criminalizing drug use hasn’t work - compassionate alternatives must be pursued; policy and legislation must exist to protect individuals and communities, ensure basic human rights and needs are met; everyone has a right to respectful and comprehensive healthcare; and


WHEREAS, overdose can happen to anyone, recognizing that the overdose crisis is not just about one drug or one group of people, with risk factors that include polydrug or polysubstance use, tolerance and half-life, adulterated and contaminated drug-supply; and

WHEREAS, overdose is preventable and achieving an effective response to the current global overdose epidemic must include the activation of communities to build awareness and advocate for change, utilizing insights and knowledge by listening to those with lived and living experience of overdose and people who use drugs, along with the use of culturally appropriate solutions, and more; 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 effective strategies and 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, 2025, 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 16, 2025
Date