



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, drug overdoses are now the number one cause of accidental death in New Jersey, surpassing car accidents, homicides, and suicides combined; and

WHEREAS, addiction is a health condition and the discrimination associated with addiction must be addressed so that no one is stigmatized because of their health condition; and

WHEREAS, according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were an estimated 109,680 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2022; and

WHEREAS, 3,000 people in New Jersey died from suspected drug overdoses in 2022, 86% of these involving the highly potent opioid fentanyl or one of its analogs, and an increasing percentage of these complicated by the presence of xylazine; and

WHEREAS, people who use drugs, family members, health care practitioners, and others can save lives by learning about the signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Naloxone 365 program has made free naloxone available anonymously in participating pharmacies, which can be located at [StopOverdoses.nj.gov](http://StopOverdoses.nj.gov); and

WHEREAS, the overdose crisis in New Jersey and across the country is not only driven by drug supply, but also by psychological trauma, structural inequities, stigma, and feelings of despair and isolation; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts are needed to increase the availability of substance use treatment and medications for opioid use disorder, which can be accessed by calling 844-REACHNJ, and to access to a Harm Reduction Center, where naloxone and other harm reduction services are provided; and

WHEREAS, families affected by overdose need compassion, along with assistance and emotional support from professional and peer resources, including NJ Connect for Recovery (855-652-3737); and

WHEREAS, August 31<sup>st</sup> is recognized in communities around the world as a day to remember individuals who were lost to drug overdose and to support their families and loved ones, and to galvanize action towards ending preventable overdose deaths;

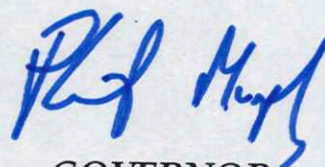
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**AUGUST 31, 2023**  
**AS**  
**OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this fourteenth day of August in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
GOVERNOR