



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, drug overdoses are now the number one cause of accidental deaths 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, 2,564 people in New Jersey died from suspected drug overdoses in 2023, which decreased from 2,892 in 2022, and the majority of these involved the highly potent opioid fentanyl or one of its analogs, and were increasingly 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, which is available free and anonymously through New Jersey's Naloxone 365 program in participating pharmacies (located at 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 overdose deaths are increasingly occurring in people of color; and those 55 years and older; 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 1-844-REACHNJ, and to access to a Harm Reduction Centers, where naloxone and other harm reduction services and supports 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 31st 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, 2024
AS
OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

in New Jersey.



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


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR