



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, addiction is a disease and the stigma associated with addiction must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace over a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug overdose is now the number one cause of accidental death in the nation, surpassing car accidents for the first time; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 113 people die as a result of a drug overdose and another 6,748 are treated in emergency departments for the misuse or abuse of drugs every day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, by acknowledging all those who have been affected by overdose, we help the general public understand its effects on New Jersey's communities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remains committed to raising awareness in order to combat stigma and educate New Jersey's communities about overdose prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**AUGUST 31, 2014**  
AS  
**OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

in New Jersey and urge all residents to learn about this disease and to aid and support those who are affected by it.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this first day of August in the year two thousand fourteen, the two hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Kim Guadagno*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

*Chris Christie*  
GOVERNOR