



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

**Recognizing August 31, 2022, as
“International Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey**

September 20, 2022

WHEREAS, August 31st, International Overdose Awareness Day, is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind, and for many, Overdose Awareness Day is the first and only time they can share their grief without stigma; and

WHEREAS, the theme of International Overdose Awareness Day 2022 is once again *Time to Remember, Time to Act*, with the goal of raising awareness of overdose, which remains one of the world’s worst public health crises, and to foster action and discussion about the critical need for evidence-based overdose prevention and drug policies; and

WHEREAS, Overdose is the leading cause of death for people ages 18 to 45 in America today, up 15% from 2020-2021, with more than 100,000 people having died in the US in the 12-month period ending in March 2022; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Murphy stated that “On Overdose Awareness Day, we not only commemorate the lives tragically lost to overdoses, we also honor their memories by renewing our efforts to help those struggling with substance use disorder and prevent further tragedies from taking place;” and

WHEREAS, according to US Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra “Americans today are facing a mounting national crisis of mental health and substance use,” with US HHS traveling across the country as part of the National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health, to listen and learn about how HHS can support local communities with these issues; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and its Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remain committed to educating communities across New Jersey about overdose and combatting the related stigma.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes August 31, 2022 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; County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.

Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman

September 20, 2022

Date