

WHEREAS; substance use disorders negatively affect the health, quality of life, and livelihood of folks throughout Wisconsin and may lead to severe injury or death; and

WHEREAS; many, though not all, drug overdoses in the United States and Wisconsin are related to the use of opioids, such as heroin, fentanyl, prescription oxycodone, and drugs laced with opioids, and fatal overdoses involving psychostimulants, like cocaine and methamphetamine are on the rise; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 107,000 individuals died of an overdose in the U.S. in 2022, including approximately 1,800 Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; individuals who face disparate outcomes in health and healthcare access face greater challenges to receiving treatment for substance use disorders, which is why the state has been proud to support organizations and efforts in Wisconsin to improve healthcare access and address the challenges related to substance use disorder, such as mental health; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to challenging the stigma and discrimination associated with substance use disorders so that no one ever feels shame for struggling, for having overdosed, or for asking for help; and

WHEREAS; the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug, naloxone, is readily available at hundreds of locations statewide—thanks to the efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and its partners, including Tribal, county, and municipal health departments, pharmacies, and recovery community organizations—and should be part of every Wisconsinite’s first aid kit; and

WHEREAS; in the event of an emergency, recognizing the signs of an overdose and administering naloxone is critical to saving lives, and according to the CDC, signs of an overdose can include constricted pupils, loss of consciousness, limited or slowed breathing, choking, limpness, cold and clammy skin, or skin discoloration; and

WHEREAS; every year, the last day of August is recognized worldwide as a day to remember those who have been lost to an overdose, to acknowledge the grief of their families, friends, and communities, and to act to prevent drug-related deaths and reduce the stigma that surrounds substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins DHS in reminding all Wisconsinites that anyone can save a life by being a resource to help those struggling with substance use disorder, educating themselves on the signs of an overdose, learning how to administer naloxone, and calling 911;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 31 2023 as

## **INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

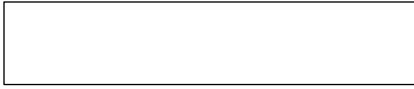
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 9th day of August 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State