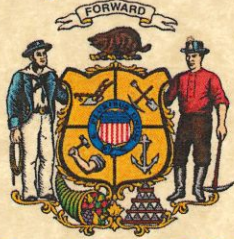


# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; substance use disorders impact all aspects of life in Wisconsin and nationwide, negatively affecting the health, relationships, and livelihoods of individuals across the state and potentially leading to severe injury or death; and

*WHEREAS*; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that more than 80,000 individuals died of an overdose in the U.S. in 2024, including more than 1,100 Wisconsinites; and

*WHEREAS*; one life lost to substance use disorder is too many, and the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to supporting efforts in Wisconsin to improve healthcare access and address challenges related to substance use disorder, including reducing the stigma associated with substance use disorders so that shame is not a barrier to accessing the lifesaving care and ensuring healthcare is accessible and affordable for all, including those who face disparate outcomes in health and face greater challenges in receiving adequate treatment; and

*WHEREAS*; 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, the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug, naloxone, is readily available at no cost at hundreds of locations statewide; and

*WHEREAS*; naloxone is critical to saving lives and should be part of every Wisconsinite's first aid kit to ensure they are prepared in the event of an emergency, and Wisconsinites should educate themselves on recognizing the signs of an overdose, such as constricted pupils, loss of consciousness, limited or slowed breathing, choking, limpness, cold and clammy skin, or skin discoloration; and

*WHEREAS*; fortunately, thanks to the dedicated efforts of countless individuals, advocates, healthcare providers, public health professionals, organizations, and so many others, the CDC estimates that annual drug overdose deaths are projected to reach their lowest level since 2019, with nearly all states across the nation having experienced decreases in 2024, with many states, including Wisconsin, seeing a decline of approximately 35 percent or more; and

*WHEREAS*; to continue supporting these lifesaving efforts, every year, the last day of August is recognized worldwide as International Overdose Awareness Day, which serves as a day to remember those who have tragically lost their lives to an overdose, acknowledge the grief of their families, friends, and communities, and encourage others to be informed and educated in order to act to prevent substance use disorders and drug-related deaths and save lives; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin reminds 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, 2025, 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 7th day  
of August 2025.

*Tony Evers*  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

*Sarah Godlewski*  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State