

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 Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 800 Wisconsinites died from an opioid-related overdose in 2024, and in 2025, over 1,100 Wisconsinites visited the emergency room due to opioid-related reasons; 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 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, nearly all states across the nation, including Wisconsin, experienced decreases in overdoses in 2025; 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 2026 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 23rd day of July 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State