

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, no community in Washington State is immune to accidental or intentional overdose, and drug overdose deaths remain high across the state, impacting urban, suburban, and rural communities, overdose deaths disproportionately affect American Indian/Alaskan Native communities and marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS, like many states, Washington is fighting concurrent epidemics - while prescription opioids are driving deaths in rural areas of the State, illicit opioid drugs are the primary drivers of deaths in suburban and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, more than 1259 Washington residents died from drug overdose deaths in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Health Care Authority, Department of Health, and University of Washington-Alcohol Drug Abuse Institute, local health jurisdictions, community organizations, syringe-service programs, and pharmacies collectively distributed overdose reversal medication to thousands of individuals in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Washington State acknowledges that there is a need to treat drug-related harm as a public health issue and invest in evidence-based practices that save lives and build communities; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has implemented a State Opioid Response Plan to strategically address the epidemic while investing in resources like the 24-hour Washington Recovery Helpline; and

WHEREAS, Washington State remains committed to raising awareness around drug overdose morbidity and mortality by reducing stigma through statewide initiatives related to education, prevention, treatment, and recovery support for substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity for all Washingtonians to stand beside those who have lost loved ones to an overdose and those who have a substance use disorder and are diligently working toward recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2021, as

Overdose Awareness Day

in Washington, and I encourage anyone whose life has been impacted by substance use disorder to call the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511.

Signed this 16th day of August, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee

