

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

August 31, 2020

WHEREAS, an overdose is now one of the leading causes of accidental death in the nation and in the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs connects Pennsylvanians in crisis to services and emergency treatment programs that include medical assisted treatment, detox and crisis stabilization, and inpatient and intensive outpatient services; and

WHEREAS, in March 2018 my administration created the Pennsylvania Overdose Information Network (ODIN), a tool to track overdoses, naloxone administrations, and investigative drug information which aids professionals in law enforcement, public safety, and healthcare to share information and better protect public health; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder and drug overdose affect all socio-economic groups, geographical regions, and ages; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder is a chronic disease and its associated stigma is damaging and must be addressed so that no one feels shame or the need to be secretive in relation to substance use and overdose. By supporting all those who have been tragically affected by overdose, we help the general public understand the profound impact overdose death has on our communities; and

WHEREAS, communities across our commonwealth have been hurt by overdose deaths, through the premature loss of lives and the pain carried by surviving loved ones. We must raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related fatalities in order to effectively combat substance use disorder and reduce overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths are preventable, and lives can be saved through awareness, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support. Through the combined efforts of state leaders, advocates, and public health and safety professionals, our state saw an eighteen percent decrease in overdose deaths from 2017 to 2018. While we have made progress, we are still losing far too many Pennsylvanians, and we must seek out additional tools and resources to help those in need get treatment, improve our response coordination, and save more lives.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2020 as OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to learn about substance use disorder, to raise awareness, and to aid and support those who are affected by it.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this first day of August two thousand twenty, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-fifth.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor