



International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31, 2021

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About the campaign

International Overdose Awareness Day is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, to remember without stigma those who have died, and to acknowledge the grief of the family friends left behind.



U.S. Statistics

The [Center for Disease Control](#) estimates that about 93,000 people died from an overdose in 2020, a nearly 30% increase in deaths compared to 2019.



CT Good Samaritan Law

In 2011, a Good Samaritan Law was passed to protect those who call 911 in response to an overdose. This law prevents the caller from being arrested; however, it does not protect the caller from other charges and/or stop the police from serving a search/arrest warrant if that was already in process.



Responding to an overdose situation

An overdose can occur with many drugs including but not limited to depressants, opioids, alcohol and stimulants. A range of signs and symptoms can occur when a person overdoses. This depends on factors including the drug taken, the amount taken, and the person's state of health. Additionally the risk of overdose is increased after a period of abstinence (i.e. detox, rehab, jail/prison, pregnancy, etc.) due to a decreased tolerance. MOUD/MAT medications reduce drug cravings and can prevent relapse.

If you have any reason to suspect a person is overdosing, call 911 immediately.



Naloxone (Narcan)

Never Use Alone hotline:

A life saving point of contact for people who use drugs alone
(800) 484-3731 | neverusealone.com

Naloxone is a medicine used for the treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose emergency. Signs of an opioid overdose can include: unconsciousness or an inability to wake up, limp body, extreme drowsiness, breathing that is slow, shallow, irregular or absent, skin that is pale, blue, cold and/or clammy, sounds of choking, snoring, or gurgling, slow/absence of heartbeat, and very small or "pinpoint pupils."

Fentanyl, a powerful opiate, is often found in many street drugs including heroin, cocaine and even marijuana and increases risk of overdose. Due to its strength, it only takes a small amount of this drug to cause an overdose and may require additional doses of Narcan to reverse it.

Naloxone is not a substitute for emergency care. If you suspect an overdose, call 911 immediately and do your best to stay with the person who is overdosing until medical help arrives.

For more information on Opioids, Overdose Prevention, and Naloxone/Narcan, please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Health-Education-Management-Surveillance/The-Office-of-Injury-Prevention/Opioids-and-Prescription-Drug-Overdose-Prevention-Program>

Many towns and municipalities host awareness and remembrance events for International Overdose Awareness Day. Check with your local recovery organizations and agencies to find one near you.

CT State Resources

[DMHAS Addiction Services](#)
[Bed Availability](#)

[CT 24/7 Treatment Access Line:](#)
1-800-563-4086

[CT Department of Mental Health and](#)
[Addiction Services](#)

[Women's REACH Program](#)

[CT Community for](#)
[Addiction Recovery](#)

[211 CT](#)

[LiveLOUD](#)