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## Governor Christie Proclaims August 31st As Overdose Awareness Day In New Jersey

Thursday, August 31, 2017

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**Trenton, NJ** – Today, Governor Chris Christie issued the following statement, proclaiming August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, as “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

“Today, New Jersey and communities around the world remember individuals who were lost to drug overdoses and those who have been saved from the depths of an overdose and given a second chance at life. Addiction is a disease, and the associated stigma must be addressed so that more of our relatives, friends, neighbors and coworkers are empowered to get help, instead of suffering in silence from being shamed or disgraced. With prescription and illegal drug overdoses becoming the top cause of accidental death in the nation, it is time to shine a brighter light on this tragic issue. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 50,000 people die each year in America from drug overdoses and another 2.5 million people are treated in emergency rooms for the misuse or abuse of drugs. The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remains committed to raising awareness about prevention, treatment and recovery resources, in order to save lives, combat stigma and end the costly cycle of recidivism. We continue urging people to contact 1-844-ReachNJ and [ReachNJ.gov](#) to access immediate and lasting resources to avoid or overcome addiction.”

A copy of the Governor’s proclamation is attached.

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