



THE HOPE DEALER

Newsletter of the Faith-Based Initiative

By Lydia Price

August is Overdose Awareness Month. This awareness month exists to honor the lives lost from overdose, to the prevention of overdoses, and to the de-stigmatization of substance abuse disorders.

An overdose occurs when a toxic amount of a substance overwhelms the body, making the body unable to respond or function in a normal way. An overdose may lead to death.

In the year 2020 3,032 Tennesseans died from a drug overdose. Drug overdose deaths increased 45% from 2019 to 2020 in Tennessee alone.



Although the number of deaths from prescription opioid overdoses (pain relievers) has been decreasing since 2017, overdose deaths due to fentanyl and methamphetamine have only continued to rise. In 2020, more Tennesseans died from an overdose involving the illicit drug fentanyl than prescription opioids, a trend that reflects the shift from prescription to illicit drugs in the overdose epidemic. For this reason we need to remain conscience that an overdose can occur with any substance. For more information on Tennessee Drug Overdose Deaths, scan the QR code .



Learn more by
reading the full
report.

Faith-Based Initiative Goals:

- Connect individuals struggling with mental health issues and/or substance use to treatment.
- Facilitate understanding of what treatment and recovery are.
- Increase knowledge of what mental health concerns and substance use are.
- Spread awareness of the Faith-Based Initiative certification and its requirements.
- Understand the continuum of care and collaborate with it.
- Help groups understand and implement the best practice model.
- Promote and improve effectiveness of the faith-based initiative and how it connects the community with recovery and support services.

Time to Remember. Time to Act.

This means that we come together for one cause. And that cause is, One life lost to overdose is one to many. Overdose are preventable and we need to make sure we are doing our part. Below are four simple things you can do to make a difference.

- 1) Remember a lost loved one and tribute to those that have passed away from an overdose by sharing picture or quote on your social media. Post a tribute on the International Overdose Awareness page www.overdoseday.com/post-a-tribute/
- 2) Get involved by hosting or attending an overdose awareness day event. Vigil are a powerful way for communities to come together and remember the individuals who have lost their lives to overdose.
- 3) Share out resources whether it is by means of using your social media or posting flyers out in local stores. The impact of being an advocate is vital in the recovery movement.
- 4) Carry Naloxone—Get trained in overdose prevention and the proper way to administer Naloxone. Learning the signs and systems of an overdose can be the life given skills need to prevent a death. Scan the QR code to connect with your local Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist or visit TN.gov/behavioral-health/rops



Scan Me
To connect with your
Regional Overdose
Prevention Specialist
(ROPS)

Upcoming Events

West Tennessee

**International Overdose
Awareness Day Candlelight
Vigil**
8/31/22 7pm
336 S. Highland Ave
Jackson, TN

Middle Tennessee

**Lincoln County Recovery
Fest**
8/27/22 10am
Stone Bridge Park
301 Eufala St.
Fayetteville, TN

**Maury County Overdose
Awareness**
8/31/22 6pm
Columbia Square

**1st Annual Drug Free WilCo
Hope & Recovery Fest**
9/3/22, 10am-2pm
Cumberland University
Alumni Hall 408 S Maple St
Lebanon, TN

**6th Annual Rutherford
Recovery Fest**
9/17/22
10am-2pm
Family Worship Center
3045 Memorial Blvd
Murfreesboro, TN

East Tennessee

**Overdose Awareness
Candlelight Vigil**
8/31/22 6pm
67 Old Hwy 56
Coalmont, TN

The Chris Herren Story
8/31/22 7-8:30
Knoxville Seventh Day
Adventist Church
3611 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN

TN RECOVER
TEXT "SAVE" TO 30678
TO DOWNLOAD

Connect to prevention resources
and a community of recovery.

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**TN
REDLINE**
1.800.889.9789
CALL OR TEXT

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STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, overdose deaths continue to tragically take the lives of too many Tennesseans, causing hurt, pain, sorrow, and loss for thousands of families and communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, rates of overdose and resulting deaths continue to rise sharply driven by an influx of illicit fentanyl into our state; and

WHEREAS, efforts to educate, equip, and empower people to respond to an overdose, reverse it, and save a life are reaching hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, dedicated professionals with lived experience of substance use who have achieved a new life in recovery are using their past as purpose to change the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee communities are standing up to address the underlying causes of addiction and recognizing the impact of factors like Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to break the cycle of addiction; and

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity for all Tennesseans 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, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2022, as

Overdose Awareness Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-ninth day of July, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lu Hargis".

Secretary of State