



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: CMDHD Recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day
Release Date: August 22, 2024

CMDHD is Recognizing August 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day

Exchange Central provides free Narcan, an essential tool to combat overdose deaths.

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the impact of drug overdoses on our community and honors those who have lost their lives, as well as their loved ones.

International Overdose Awareness Day also seeks to reduce the stigma surrounding substance use disorders. Negative attitudes can hinder efforts to raise awareness and support for those affected by overdose deaths. On this day, we stand together to work towards preventing future tragedies.

“CMDHD provides Narcan for free through our syringe service program, Exchange Central, at all branch offices,” said Anna Reetz, CMDHD Community Health Supervisor. “Narcan can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes, which is crucial since most overdoses happen at home. Having Narcan nearby can save lives.”

Overdose deaths are rising in Michigan, with 2,998 deaths reported in 2022. Globally, opioid use has increased, especially in the United States, where opioids are the leading cause of drug-related deaths. Synthetic opioids like fentanyl are particularly dangerous, with deaths increasing by 1,040% from 2013 to 2019, reaching 76,226 in 2022. However, the wider availability of Narcan, an overdose-reversing drug, in 2023 has led to a promising decrease in overdose deaths.

For more information about obtaining free Narcan, fentanyl test strips, or other safe supplies, contact CMDHD’s Exchange Central by calling or texting (989) 259-4549. You can also visit the Harm Reduction Vending Machine at 4273 Corporate Way in Mt. Pleasant. To receive Narcan by mail for free, visit Next Distro at www.nextdistro.org.

Please visit us online at www.cmdhd.org.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).

Resources:

<https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2024/20240515.htm. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Overdose Deaths Decrease in 2023, First Time Since 2018

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/opioid-overdose> World Health Organization, Opioid overdose

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2023.html> United Nations, World Drug Report 2023



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