



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**

**2019**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, excessive drinking is the third leading cause of preventable death in North Carolina; in 2017, an estimated 4,000 North Carolinians died from alcohol-related causes; and

**WHEREAS**, the level of excessive drinking in North Carolina has been trending up based on measurements made from 2012-2017; excessive drinking is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as binge drinking, heavy drinking, and any drinking by pregnant women or people younger than age 21; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol kills more children than all illegal drugs combined; excessive drinking is responsible for more than 4,300 deaths and 119,000 emergency room visits by underage youth each year; and

**WHEREAS**, research indicates that underage drinking damages developing brain cells and that the earlier people begin drinking, the more likely they will develop alcohol use disorders or related negative consequences later in life; yet, 26.5 percent of North Carolina high school students report having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days, and 12.4 percent report binge drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, progress is being made in reducing underage alcohol use, but these figures show there is significant work left to be done; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is working to mobilize efforts within communities to decrease underage access to alcohol, change community norms that promote underage and excessive alcohol consumption, and address policies pertaining to underage and excessive drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol abuse and dependency are treatable, but stigma remains an issue that can cause people to avoid treatment; the State of North Carolina is working to decrease the stigma associated with alcohol abuse and dependence through increased awareness, education, discussion, and community mobilization; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services operates three Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers that serve adults in need of substance use disorder treatment and psychiatric stabilization; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina encourages all individuals, government agencies, and public and private institutions to support early education about alcoholism and addiction, and provide hope, help, and healing for those in our communities who are facing challenges with alcohol use and abuse;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April, 2019, as "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.