

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

**2020**

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

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, more than 770,000 Americans died from drug overdoses from 1999 to September of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1999 to 2017, more than 13,000 North Carolinians died from unintentional opioid-involved poisoning deaths; according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, the cost of unintentional opioid-involved poisoning deaths in North Carolina totaled \$2.5 billion in 2017 alone; and

**WHEREAS**, overdoses have risen exponentially during the COVID-19 crisis; visits to the emergency department due to opioid overdose in May 2020 were 25 percent higher than the same time last year; and

**WHEREAS**, behavioral health and substance use disorders have been significantly impacted by the public health response to slow the spread of COVID-19 as people are experiencing the effects of isolation, restricted access to some care services, and increased anxiety on their overall health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hope4NC Helpline (1-855-587-3463) is available 24/7 for anyone in North Carolina who might need to talk, find behavioral health or substance use treatment services, or seek crisis intervention; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan, released in June 2017 and updated in June 2019, includes agencies and community partners across the state who continue to work to combat the opioid crisis by promoting strategies to reduce unintentional opioid overdose deaths by 20 percent by 2021; and

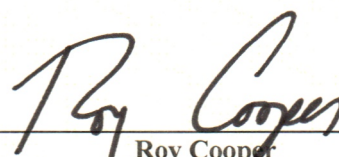
**WHEREAS**, over the last 3 years, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has distributed more than 130,000 units of naloxone, a life-saving medication for individuals experiencing an opioid overdose, and over 12,000 uninsured individuals have accessed medication assisted treatment through federal discretionary grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 20,000 individuals receive medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder on a daily basis from one of 78 opioid treatment programs in North Carolina; learn more about treatment programs, syringe services programs and other evidence-based tools to prevent overdose deaths in North Carolina at [www.morepowerfulnc.org](http://www.morepowerfulnc.org); and

**WHEREAS**, Overdose Awareness Day spreads the message that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable, raises awareness to reduce the stigma of addiction, and commemorates loved ones who have been lost to this crisis;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2020, as **“OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY”** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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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 eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.