

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community encouraged to attend opioid overdose prevention workshop
August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day

Eau Claire, WI – August 29, 2022 – August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day – a time to raise awareness and lessen the stigma of a drug-related death. It's a day for families and friends to remember those impacted by drug overdose.

In honor of International Overdose Awareness Day, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department and the Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention encourage the public to attend an upcoming workshop to learn more about opioid use, overdose prevention, and local support groups and resources.

“At our *What Do You Know About Opioids* workshop, you’ll learn how to recognize the signs and how to respond to a potential overdose,” says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Public Health Specialist. “Familiarizing yourself with local resources like this is a meaningful way to honor the many people in our community who are deeply impacted by overdoses.”

Drug overdoses affect whole communities. Nationally, 189 people die **each day** from an opioid overdose. Opioids range from prescription pain relievers to illegal drugs like heroin and fentanyl. All opioids are addictive.

Every year in Wisconsin, more people die of opioid overdoses than in car crashes. In 2020, Eau Claire County was impacted by 15 opioid overdose deaths, and 280 opioid-related hospital visits.

Here are some ways that you can help prevent an overdose:

- **Register for a What Do You Know About Opioids workshop** to learn about opioid use and prevention in Eau Claire County. Attendees will receive training on how to give Narcan (naloxone) and can take home one box of Narcan Nasal Spray. The next workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 14 from 5:30 – 7:00pm in Altoona. Learn more about the free workshop at www.GetInvolvedASAP.org.





- **Find local support groups and treatment resources** in the Chippewa Valley. Find the booklet at bit.ly/OverdoseBooklet.
- **Use a lockbox, lock bag, or locked drawer** and hide the key to keep opioid medicine safe and out of sight.
- **Dispose of your unused or expired medication** at one of the permanent drop-off locations in Eau Claire County or use a medication deactivation system.
- **Learn the signs of an overdose** by watching Gas Station TV the next time you are filling up, look for our bus advertisement, and follow the Alliance for Substance Misuse on [Facebook](#).

To learn more about overdose prevention and to register for an upcoming *What Do You Know About Opioids* workshop, visit www.GetInvolvedASAP.org.

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