**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Overdose Awareness Day in Livingston County** *What you need to know!*

The Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention Workgroup of the Human Service Collaborative Body is a partnership of local substance use agencies who work together to create a continuum of services and supports for people experiencing addiction and recovery, and we are recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day.

**International Overdose Awareness Day – August 31, 2021** – According to International Overdose Awareness Day (<https://www.overdoseday.com>):

* International Overdose Awareness Day is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind.
* The campaign raises awareness of overdose, which is one of the world’s worst public health crises and stimulates action and discussion about evidence-based overdose prevention and drug policy.
* The campaign acknowledges the profound grief felt by families and friends whose loved ones have died or suffered permanent injury from a drug overdose.
* International Overdose Awareness Day spreads the message about the tragedy of drug overdose death and that drug overdose is preventable.

**Take a moment on this day to recognize the grief, understand the problem and take action in our community. Here are some ideas:**

* Join [The Amber Reineck House](https://www.amberreineckhouse.org/upcoming-events.html#/) as they celebrate Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 from 6pm – 9pm at the Brighton Mill Pond
* Get involved in prevention activities, by joining [Livingston County Community Alliance](https://drugfreelivingston.com/)
* Read the [Michigan Opioid Task Force Report](https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/0,9238,7-377-88142---,00.html) – where Livingston County is listed as one of the Top 10 Counties with the highest fatal opioid overdose rates – about prevention, treatment and harm reduction strategies
* Properly dispose of unwanted medication in the local [Big Red Barrels](https://drugfreelivingston.com/the-big-red-barrel/)
* Help support all the [treatment and recovery programs](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/2021%20Substance%20Use%20Provider%20Directory.pdf) in Livingston County that help save lives
* Help educate our local physicians about prescription best practices by sharing this [flyer](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/SUD%20Rx%20Outreach.pdf) with your doctor

**We can all help protect someone's hero in our community!**

The Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention workgroup has additional resource specific to Livingston County. These include: [Fact you should know about marijuana and how it affects youth](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/MarijuanaFactSheet.pdf), [Underage Alcohol Use in Livingston County Fact Sheet](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/FACT%20sheet%20Underage%20Drinking.pdf), [Opioids in Livingston County Fact Sheet](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/Fact%20Sheet%20Prescription%20Drugs%20and%20Opiates.pdf), [Electronic Cigarettes Fact Sheet](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/Fact%20Sheet%20E-cigarettes.pdf), [Recovery in Livingston County Fact Sheet](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/Recovery%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf), and the [Provider Directory](https://www.livgov.com/hscb/Documents/2021%20Substance%20Use%20Provider%20Directory.pdf).

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