

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Drug Overdoses are the Leading Cause of Injury Deaths in the U.S.**

*August 31<sup>st</sup> is International Overdose Awareness Day*

**Eau Claire, WI – August 31, 2018** – Drug overdose has surpassed car accident deaths and is now the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States. Nationally, 174 people die each day from overdose. Many of these deaths are due to opioids (prescription pain killers or heroin). Our community, much like others in the nation, is impacted by drug overdose. In 2016, 1,031 Wisconsin residents died because of a drug overdose.

Across the world, August 31<sup>st</sup> is designated as International Overdose Awareness Day. The goal is to raise awareness and lessen the stigma of a drug-related death. It is a day of remembrance for families and friends that have been impacted by drug overdose. Overdose Awareness Day presents an opportunity to spread the message on overdose prevention.

“Have the conversation with your friends and family to spread the message that drug overdose is a problem affecting every community. Eau Claire County is not immune,” says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Community Health Educator.

**Here are some ways that you can help prevent prescription misuse:**

- **Get a personal medicine lockbox.**
- **Dispose of your leftover or expired medicines** at one of the permanent drop boxes in Eau Claire County. Find a location at the Dose of Reality website <https://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/find-a-take-back-location/>
- **Never use another person’s medication.**
- **Don’t take more medication than prescribed without talking with your doctor.**

To learn more about substance misuse, visit [www.getinvolvedasap.org](http://www.getinvolvedasap.org) or <http://doseofrealitywi.gov/>

**200** Eau Claire County  
high school students  
reported misusing a  
prescription drug during  
the last 30 days

**#END OVERDOSE**

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