

NEWS RELEASE

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Summit County Recognizes Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Shapiro and County Council are recognizing August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day and have introduced a resolution to acknowledge September as Recovery Month.

"Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity to remember the lives lost and the families, friends, and communities who continue to feel those losses," said Executive Shapiro. "It is also a reminder that we have the tools and resources to save lives. By making naloxone more accessible, reducing the stigma surrounding substance use, and connecting people with the support they need, we can continue making progress in our community."

According to data from Summit County Public Health, 110 Summit County residents died from an overdose in 2025, a decline from 155 deaths in 2024. As of July 20, 2026, there had been 613 presumed overdoses based on emergency department visits throughout the County and 37 overdose deaths reported so far this year. In 2025, 88% of overdose deaths in Ohio involved fentanyl or other opiates.

Since 2015, Summit County Public Health has partnered with the State of Ohio's Project DAWN program to provide overdose education and naloxone. As of the end of July 2026, the department had distributed 6,806 naloxone kits, trained 352 individuals to respond to an overdose emergency, and received reports of 397 overdose reversals by community members. For additional details about Project DAWN, please visit: <https://www.scph.org/counseling/projectdawn-narcan>.

The County has also expanded access to naloxone through more than 316 NaloxBoxes located throughout Summit County, as well as nine vending machines that provide naloxone and other harm reduction materials. Syringe exchange, wound care, fentanyl test strips and Narcan distribution are all available at weekly clinics. Clinic locations and hours are available at <https://www.scph.org/counseling/summit-safe-syringe-exchange>.

Recovery Month immediately follows Overdose Awareness Day, and County Council has introduced a resolution to recognize the month and is encouraging residents to join the acknowledgement.

Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Recovery Month increases awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders and celebrates those who are recovering. It also highlights the importance of prevention, treatment and recovery and recognizes behavioral health as an integral part of overall health.

“Recovery is possible, achievable, and worth celebrating,” said Executive Shapiro. “We want residents struggling with substance use or mental health challenges to know they are not alone and that resources are available to help. Each of us can play a role in creating a community where asking for help is met with compassion and where recovery is supported without stigma.”

The Executive’s Office is also a certified Recovery Friendly Workplace through Summit County Public Health’s program, which works to eliminate barriers and stigma for individuals impacted by addiction and create supportive workplace environments. To learn more about Recovery Friendly Workplace or to join, visit: <https://www.scph.org/rfw>

Residents seeking substance use resources can contact the ADM Addiction Helpline at 330-940-1133. Residents experiencing a mental health crisis should call or text 9-8-8.

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