



**A JOINT PROCLAMATION IN  
OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL  
OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

**AUGUST 31, 2026**



**LA CROSSE COUNTY**



**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day is recognized in communities around the world to raise awareness about the risks of overdose while challenging the stigma associated with substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, this day recognizes the devastating impact of drug overdose in our communities, supports those who struggle with drug use or abuse and reinforces the belief that no one should feel shame or disgrace due to an overdose-related death of a loved-one; and

**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day sends a strong message to individuals, who formerly used or currently use substances, that they are valued; and

**WHEREAS**, this day provides an opportunity to recognize that painkillers and other prescription medications play an important role in our well-being and that the misuse or abuse of such drugs can have tragic and long-term consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of drug-related deaths in La Crosse County rose steadily from 2014 through 2023, deeply impacting families, friends, and the surrounding communities; and, while 2024 marked the first decrease in a decade, the toll remains devastating; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 there were 25 accidental drug overdose deaths in La Crosse County.

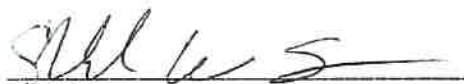
**WHEREAS**, the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County are committed to improving the health and well-being of all community members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, SHAUNDEL WASHINGTON-SPIVEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, AND TINA TRYGGESTAD, LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD CHAIR, do hereby proclaim August 31 2026 as**

**"INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY"**

in the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County and call upon all citizens to increase their awareness and understanding of drug overdose and recognize drug abuse as a significant public health issue.

Dated on this 31st day of August in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

  
SHAUNDEL WASHINGTON-SPIVEY, MAYOR

  
TINA TRYGGESTAD, COUNTY BOARD CHAIR