



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Dakota Encourages Awareness & Safety Amid Overdose Spike

South Dakota officials have detected a rise in suspected overdoses in [COUNTY, CITY OR SPECIFIC AREA]. [INCLUDE ANY SPECIFICS TO THE SITUATION, INCLUDING SUBSTANCE(S) INVOLVED, ETC.]

Since 2012, drug-related deaths in South Dakota have increased by 77%, and in 2023, 65 people died from unintentional and preventable overdoses. Though overdoses can occur from a variety of substances, opioids and fentanyl have contributed to greatest increases in recent years.

To protect our families, friends and communities, it's important to recognize the signs of an overdose and be aware of safety measures to prevent or respond to an emergency situation.

- Keep naloxone (Narcan) on hand in case of emergencies. You can get Narcan free from participating pharmacies near you at LetsBeClearSD.com.
- Only take pills that are prescribed by your doctor.
- If you use substances, always test them first with fentanyl test strips, and do not use alone.
- If you expect someone might be experiencing an overdose, look for three hallmark symptoms known as the overdose triad: pinpoint pupils, respiratory distress and a decreased level of consciousness. Administer naloxone (Narcan), perform CPR and call 911 immediately.

Know that help is always nearby. The 988 Lifeline is a local, confidential resource for substance use, mental health and emotional concerns. Call, text or chat 988 if you need help or are concerned about someone in your life. You can also visit SDBehavioralHealth.gov or LetsBeClearSD.com to find resources and treatment options.

