

The Positive Post

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) 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 also 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.



The goals of International Overdose Awareness Day are:

- To provide an opportunity for people to publicly mourn loved ones in a safe environment, some for the first time without feeling guilt or shame.
- To include the greatest number of people in International Overdose Awareness Day events, and encourage non-denominational involvement.
- To provide information about the issue of fatal and non-fatal overdose.
- To send a strong message to current and former people who use drugs that they are valued.
- To stimulate discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy.
- To provide basic information on the range of support services that are available.
- To prevent and reduce drug-related harm by supporting evidence-based policy and practice.
- To inform people around the world about the risk of overdose.

Reference: [International Overdose Awareness Day, About the Campaign, 2022](#)

Ask The Educator

You can submit your questions to ask the Educator via email, educationoutreach@positivepathways.com by calling our office, [519-973-0222](tel:519-973-0222) and entering extension 109, 115, 116 or 118.

Dear Educator,

I am a service provider, I have responded to more overdoses than I can count. What kind of resources or support is available in our community for me?

Sincerely,
Community Service Provider

Dear Community Service Provider,

This Year's IOAD's theme for 2023, "Recognizing those people who go unseen," we honor the people whose lives have been altered by overdose. They are the family and friends grieving the loss of a loved one; workers in healthcare and support services extending strength and compassion; or spontaneous first responders who selflessly assume the role of lifesaver.

We would like to say to these people: #weseeyou. Yours are the voices we should amplify, and your strength and experience should be held up as examples to us all. Too often, however, "the unseen" are left to bear the burden of this crisis alone and in silence.

The AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Program of Ontario, www.abrpo.org offers an impact debriefing essential tool kit. I have provided copies of these kits to many community partners and colleagues. Please feel free to email me for a more extensive resource list at educationhr@positivepathways.com

Thank you for the work you do in our community,

Lacie Krzemien, Harm Reduction Community Education Coordinator



August 2023: Calendar Dates

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>Did You Know... That we can deliver harm reduction supplies direct to you. It's free and can be anonymous, if you choose. Simply call or text our mobile number, (519) 257-9646 or email us at harmreduction@positivepathways.com.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Peer Introduction & Agency Tour</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>ECHH Outreach and Peer Engagement 10:00am to 2:00pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>H4, Outreach & Education 1:30pm to 3:30pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Victoria Place, Sexual Health Outreach Education 1:00pm to 3:00pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Queens of Pride Lanspeary Park (1250 Langlois Ave Windsor) 7:00pm</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Pride Parade Lanspeary Park (1250 Langlois Ave Windsor) 11:00am</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>IOAD Peer Planning Day 1:30pm to 3:30pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's P2P Support Group 1:30pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Victoria Place, Coffee Snacks and Chats 10:30am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Caribbean Migrant Worker Health Fair (St. Michael Parish Chatham-Kent) 4:00pm to 6:00pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>IOAD Service User BBQ/Memorial</p>	<p>*Check Website for Time and Location Details: positivepathways.com</p>	