



One of the many Pop-ups took place right outside the Medina County ADAMH Board building at 246 Northland Dr.

# Education and resources offered for Overdose Awareness Month

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The Gazette

MEDINA — August is Overdose Awareness month, and pop-ups for overdose awareness have been taking place all across the county this month leading up to International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31.

Several different recovery agencies have joined together to help spread awareness regarding overdose risks and ways to help those in a crisis. Some of the organizations that are involved are the Medina County Health Department, the ADAMH board, Hope Recovery Community, and Alternative Paths, as well as several others.

“These are kind of just pop events to maybe reach people who can’t make the International Overdose Awareness

Day event, and to really get the word out outside of just overdose awareness day,” MCHD Health Educator Rebecca Parkhurst said. “Also, to remind people that overdose awareness is happening all throughout the month and that there are efforts, like carrying Naloxone, that can be small things that really help reduce the overdose stigma. People always have access to the information and resources they need to prevent overdoses.”

Parkhurst said the events are an attempt at reducing the stigma around overdoses and helping someone who has overdosed. Theresa McMillan, a MCHD Public Health RN, said that most of the stigma stems from people misunderstanding Naloxone and the situation around an overdose.

“People are kind of shy about Naloxone. They think it is an IV, so they think they have to give somebody an IV to save them,” McMillan said. “They often don’t understand it is as simple as any nasal spray. The other thing is a lot of people are hesitant because they don’t want to touch somebody because they don’t want to be liable. What they don’t understand is that that is protected under Ohio’s Good Samaritan Law. You are not going to hurt them by giving them the medication.”

The Medina County Health Department hopes that throughout the month people have been able to learn and address the stigma around overdosing through the multiple different resources offered during Overdose Awareness Month.

“Part of it is that there is Overdose Awareness Month and International Overdose Awareness Day, so we thought we should have the pop events throughout the month,” MCHD Health Promotions Supervisor Mike Metcalf said. “Then we’ll have Overdose Awareness Day to really honor that day and all of those we have lost to overdose.”

Metcalf said that the goal is to educate and inform the public to help reduce the stigma because an overdose could happen anywhere, and it only takes an individual with Naloxone to save a life.

If individuals are interested in learning more about Naloxone or if they want to receive a Naloxone kit, head to: [tinyurl.com/mpakazu7](http://tinyurl.com/mpakazu7).

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