



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

WHEREAS, prevention is designed to promote the overall health and wellbeing of both individuals and communities, and is accomplished by delaying or inhibiting substance use disorders and promoting mental health and healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, 57.8 million adults, or nearly one in five, live with a mental illness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 48.7 million people age 12 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year, and approximately 21.5 million Americans age 18 and older have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, there were 42,262 Emergency Department Visits for "Suicidal Ideation and Self Harm" in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, from January to November 2023 there were 1,231 confirmed fatal overdoses, with 83.4% of the cases involving fentanyl, and 20.8% of the cases involving xylazine; and

WHEREAS, Naloxone was given to 3,271 people during Connecticut Poison Control Center calls during the 12-month period December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, youth reported vaping as the most common form of substance use, followed by cannabis use and then drinking alcohol; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, youth reported that easier access to parents' substances, boredom due to lockdown, and socializing with friend's post – lockdown were all impacts of COVID-19 on substance use; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, young adults who use substances, reported using substances as a way to cope with mental health issues, stress relief from school, and family issues; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders is a barrier to help-seeking behaviors; and

WHEREAS, National Prevention Week recognizes the important work that has been accomplished in communities throughout the year to inspire action and prevent substance use, suicide and mental health disorders; now

THEFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the week of May 8th – 14th, 2024, to be



PREVENTION WEEK

in the State of Connecticut.

GOVERNOR