



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-+

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) – News Conference

San Diego, CA – Monday, August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day. San Diego County will commemorate the occasion with a unique lawn display of placards with gender and age of the more than 600 local people who died of an overdose in 2019.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held each year since 2001 to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends by remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose.

In this highly visual event, the placards will not only represent each victim, but a color chart will also depict the substances in their bodies at the time of death.

Federal, county, and local law enforcement representatives, along with emergency room medical professionals, behavioral healthcare professionals, and families of victims, will be on hand to offer essential comments and spread the message that overdose death is preventable.

WHAT: News conference and highly visual lawn display representing more than 600 San Diego County overdose deaths.

WHEN: Monday, August 31, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: San Diego County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, 92101
Northwest side of building, facing Harbor Drive, Lawn Area One

WHO:

Emcee - David King, Director San Diego-Imperial HIDTA

Robert S. Brewer Jr., United States Attorney for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California

Summer Stephan, San Diego County District Attorney

John C. Callery, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration

Pam Summerfruit, Parent of Son Who Died of Fentanyl Overdose

Kristin Gaspar, San Diego County Supervisor, Third District

Roxana Kennedy, Chula Vista Police Chief and Chair San Diego Chiefs and Sheriffs Association

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

Kristen Donovan, PhD., Executive Director, Center for Community Research

MEDIA INSTRUCTIONS: This news conference will be held outdoors, Harbor Drive side, Northwest lawn, Area One. Limited street parking. Morning "live shots" can be accommodated after 6 a.m. with prior arrangement. Spanish language interviews will be available.

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<https://www.No2Meth.org> - <https://www.sandiegorexabusetaskforce.org>

The mission of the Meth Strike Force and Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF) is to prevent and reduce drug abuse in San Diego County.