

**Letter to the editor**

The opioid crisis has touched countless lives in New Jersey, leaving families devastated and communities searching for solutions. On October 6, residents will have the opportunity to unite and take action during Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day. This annual event, now in its ninth year, is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about the dangers of opioid misuse.

Throughout October, New Jerseyans can learn about and share crucial information regarding the risks of prescribed opioids, their links to heroin use, and the growing threat of synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Alarmingly, in 2023, there were 2,564 suspected overdose deaths in New Jersey, with the majority linked to some form of opioid.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day features a robust online presence, with events hosted on social media platforms and partner organization websites. The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey’s Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day Learning Series offers valuable resources to help understand and address this epidemic. Additionally, many organizations will provide educational materials at community events throughout the state.

This initiative is a collaborative effort by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder, the New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Division of Addiction Services, and the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris.

We all have a role to play in preventing opioid abuse and supporting affected individuals and families. By participating in Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day, you can be part of the solution. Join us on October 6 and help make a difference.

Visit [knockoutday.drugfreenj.org](http://knockoutday.drugfreenj.org/) for more information and to sign up to participate.