



MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUBSTANCE
ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION

For Immediate Release

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Date: August 29, 2018

MCSAP Observes International Overdose Awareness Day at Washington Park Wednesdays

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition ([MCSAP](#)) is honoring individuals impacted by prescription drug overdose on Wednesday, August 29, at the final Washington Park Wednesdays concert of the 2018 season.

As part of the International Overdose Awareness Day initiative, MCSAP will provide resources and information about the dangers of prescription drug misuse, as well as purple and silver paper to be made into origami cranes to memorialize lives lost to overdose. Coalition members will also hand out 337 purple pinwheels to represent the 337 individuals who died due to overdose in Milwaukee County in 2017.

“Many community members are shocked to learn that four out of five heroin users began by misusing prescription painkillers. Each one of us can play a part in preventing prescription drug misuse, including storing and disposing of medication safely,” said Kasaundra Brown, MCSAP coordinator. “We encourage everyone to join us and take the next step in preventing prescription drug misuse in the first place.”

To keep medications out of the wrong hands, MCSAP coalition members encourage community members to [safely dispose of their unwanted medication](#) at secure drop-box locations in pharmacies and law enforcement offices throughout Milwaukee County, or use drug mail-back envelopes available at pharmacies and fire stations in Milwaukee.

MCSAP especially urges youth to learn more about “lean” or “purple drank,” a beverage concoction often found at parties that contains prescription-strength cough syrup that contains codeine and promethazine. Unfortunately, the beverage has been popularized in songs aimed at youth, and many young people are not aware that codeine—especially when taken in large amounts—can cause an individual to stop breathing.

MCSAP is marking International Overdose Awareness Day at [Washington Park Wednesdays](#). The concert, scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 29, will feature the Diaspora Arkestra presented by James Julius Anderson and Tarik Moody.

The Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Coalition (mcsapcoalition.org), is a countywide initiative aimed at reducing youth marijuana use and preventing fatal drug overdoses, with an emphasis on prescription drugs. Community Advocates Public Policy Institute helps to staff the coalition and provide resources for its work.

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