



**DAVIDSON COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

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NEWS RELEASE

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**DCSPAN CELEBRATES OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY
DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

DCSPAN (Davidson County Stop Prescription Abuse Now!) Coalition will be celebrating Overdose Awareness during the month of August. It started July 26 with a Community Night at the HiToms game. The coalition gave out fans to patrons at the gate as well as medication lock boxes to those in need of one. Patrons were also able to take selfies with the HiToms mascot and the DCSPAN selfie board. Pictures can be seen on the DCSPAN website Health Department Facebook page.

Overdose Awareness Day is on August 31 every year. The aim is to raise awareness, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, remember those who have died or suffered permanent injury because of drug overdose and stimulate discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy. DCSPAN is encouraging people to have the conversation with their friends and family and spread the message that overdose is a problem affecting every community including Davidson County. We will have different messages each week that will be posted on the DCSPAN website, Health Department Facebook and Twitter. We ask that you like, share and retweet these messages. On August 31, we are asking people to post pictures or the names of people they have lost to overdose with #ENDOVERDOSE and #dcspan.

No community is immune to overdose; it is time to change the way we look at drug-related deaths in Davidson County. It is no good pretending overdose doesn't happen; the figures show that overdoses are affecting towns and cities across the U.S including right here in Davidson County. For the first six months of this year, Davidson County has been one of the top 10 counties with the highest rate of opioid overdose ED visits (10 or more) five times. In June, we had 21 visits.