



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 healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, 51.5 million adults, or nearly one in five, live with a mental illness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, more than 20.4 million Americans, 12 and older, have a substance use disorder and more than 9.5 million Americans, 18 and older, have co-occurring health and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, an average of 403 Connecticut residents, or an average of one person every 22 hours, died as a result of suicide in Connecticut making suicide the 11th leading cause of death for all residents and 2nd leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 years old in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 there were 1,359 confirmed drug overdose deaths in Connecticut, a 13.3% increase in drug overdose deaths compared to 2019; and

WHEREAS, 26% of Connecticut high school youth reported they drank alcohol in the past month; and

WHEREAS, 27% of Connecticut high school students report currently using electronic cigarettes, or vaping products; and

WHEREAS, about 2 out of every 5 Connecticut high school students said they had ever tried marijuana, and 1 out of 5 students, was a current user of marijuana; 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 done in communities throughout the year to inspire action and prevent substance use and mental disorders; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the week of May 9 - 15, 2021 as



CONNECTICUT PREVENTION WEEK
in the State of Connecticut.

Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR