

PRESS RELEASE

August 16, 2025



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standing Together Amid a National Crisis: Cochise Harm Reduction Hosts International Overdose Awareness Day 2025 with Art, Music, and Community

Bisbee, AZ — As overdose continues to be the leading cause of death for people aged 18 to 45 in the U.S., communities across the globe are coming together on August 31st for International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) — to honor lives lost, fight stigma, and call for care and connection in the face of isolation and grief.

In Bisbee, Cochise Harm Reduction (CHR) will host an annual free, public gathering at City Park from 5 PM to 7:30 PM, with live music, food, a community memorial space, and a new art project designed to uplift the voices and stories of those impacted.

"When people are using alone, nobody knows they're using," said Lu Funk, founder and executive director of CHR. *"That is most often when people overdose and die. So a lot of our work is to reverse that stigma, call people back into our community, and provide care to everybody."*

This year's event introduces a Community Art Project — an invitation to reflect, express, and remember through art. We invite anyone impacted by overdose, stigma, or substance use to contribute art, poetry, letters, or photos for a collective art display and post-event booklet. We will also have our memorial altar where names, photos, and memories of those we've lost will be placed in remembrance. Anyone is welcome to submit the name (and optional photo) of your loved one for the altar.

"I think we're all touched by the overdose crisis," Funk added. *"We're all touched by the spread of fentanyl in our communities, and we've all lost people. So I see this cultural narrative around, well, who do we blame?"*

This event is sponsored in part by the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona, whose partnership helps make this space of remembrance and care possible.

To learn more, [submit to the community art project](#), or [submit your loved ones name](#), or [email Jackie](#) for assistance.

About Cochise Harm Reduction

CHR is a peer-led organization rooted in health, dignity, and justice for people impacted by systemic barriers. CHR meets people where they are — and stands with them for the long haul.

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