

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 8, 2020

## **Overdose Activity in Jefferson County - ALERT**

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**Jefferson County, NY has experienced 13 overdoses from drug use in June, 2020. Of the 13 overdoses, 9 have happened from June 4, 2020 to date. Narcotics are the suspected primary drug, however other drugs or a combination of drugs could be causing the overdoses.** Of these 13 overdoses, 11 individuals survived; there are 2 fatalities. 6 overdoses occurred in the City of Watertown; 7 overdoses occurred outside the city. The two fatalities occurred in the City of Watertown over the weekend.

According to data submitted by first responders utilizing the ODMAP software system, overdose activity has steadily risen since March when there were 22 suspected overdoses reported, followed by 27 suspected overdoses reported in April, and 32 suspected overdoses reported in May. Year to date total suspected overdoses are 128.

There have been 12 confirmed overdose deaths for 2020 in Jefferson County, and include 3 in January, 1 in February, 5 in March, 2 in April, and 1 in May. Ten (83%) of these confirmed deaths are due to opioids; 9 of these attributed specifically to fentanyl. An additional 4 overdose fatalities are pending toxicology report confirmation.

The Jefferson County Public Health Service, Jefferson County Department of Community Services, and the Alliance for Better Communities want to remind people that a number of community resources have been established and expanded to help people who have substance use disorders, and for people to access these resources to receive assistance and treatment:

**Anchor Recovery Center of NNY:** (315) 836-3460

**Credo Community Center for Treatment of Addictions:** (315) 788-1530

**ACR Health:** (315) 785-8222

**Samaritan Addiction Services:** (315) 779-5060

**Samaritan Medical Center - Social Worker on Call:** (315) 785-4516

**Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-8255

**Northern Regional Center for Independent Living:** (315) 785-8703 business hours;  
and (315) 785-8708 nights and weekends.

**Mobile Crisis Jefferson County:** (315) 782-2327 or (315) 777-9681

**Hope Line:** 1-877-8-HOPENY or Text 46736

To receive Naloxone training and free kits, contact Credo, ACR Health, or the Anchor Recovery Center of NNY

The public is also reminded of **New York State's 911 Good Samaritan Law**, which allows people to call 911 without fear of arrest due to drug possession if they are having a drug or alcohol overdose that requires emergency medical care or if they witness someone overdosing.

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Additional information regarding this situation will be forthcoming.

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