



Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021

# Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Dublin VA to host Overdose Awareness Day events Aug. 28**

DUBLIN, Ga. – The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center Pharmacy will host Overdose Awareness Day events for veterans Aug. 28 at the Dublin campus and its community-based clinics in Houston County, Macon, Tifton, and Robins Air Force Base. The events will be from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-4 p.m. at each location. Information on overdose prevention and response will be provided along with information on how to use naloxone. There will be gifts available to veterans.

Event coordinator Dr. Nieka Jackson, a pharmacist at Dublin VA, acknowledged that awareness campaigns in recent years have contributed to significant decreases in overdose deaths, yet deaths from overdoses of prescription and over-the-counter medications remain a leading cause of adult and child mortality.

“The good news is that education and awareness efforts, along with better understanding of how to use naloxone interventions, are having a positive effect, but there is a long way to go. In a way, our efforts are more important now more than ever as we work to prevent people from becoming complacent about the dangers associated with drug overdoses,” Jackson said.

Jackson noted that some veterans may be particularly vulnerable since they are often treated for serious service-related conditions that may involve pharmacological interventions.

“Medications are a vital part of treatment for many of our veterans, but we want to make sure that we educate them on proper use and monitor that use effectively,” Jackson said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), overdose deaths are still a major health risk in the U.S. CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics show there were an estimated 80,391 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2024—a marked decrease of 26.9% from the 110,037 deaths estimated in 2023.

Almost all states across the nation, including Georgia, saw decreases in overdose mortality from misuse of prescription and OTC drugs, as well as from cocaine and psychostimulants like methamphetamine, while South Dakota and Nevada had slight increases compared to the same period in 2023.

Jackson invited all veterans and their families to stop by for one of the events to help spread the word on safe prescription drug use and preventing overdose.

“We certainly hope our veterans and their caregivers will stop by to learn more,” Jackson said.

For more information on these events or overdose prevention or treatment, contact Dr. Nieka Jackson at [Nieka.Jackson@va.gov](mailto:Nieka.Jackson@va.gov) You can also learn more by following the Dublin VA on Facebook at “Dublin VA Medical Center.”

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Photo credit:

1) Flyer

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