

TALK ABOUT FENTANYL

A TIP SHEET FOR STUDENTS

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl comes in two forms: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Both are classified as synthetic opioids. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is given by doctors to relieve severe pain, particularly after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer. However, most incidents of fentanyl overdoses are now associated with illicitly produced fentanyl, which is sold on illegal drug markets for its effects that resemble those of heroin. Because of its immense strength, illicit fentanyl is frequently mixed with other drugs, making them more cost-effective, potent, addictive, and hazardous.

HOW BIG IS THE RISK FROM FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is undetectable by taste or smell, and is too tiny to see. In fact, a quantity as small as two grains of salt can trigger an overdose or fatality. The only "safe" way to use fentanyl is when it is prescribed by a doctor, monitored, and administered according to strict guidelines to manage pain related to a condition or injury. Unfortunately, street drugs are often mixed with fentanyl long before they reach the people teenagers trust to obtain them, including friends, dealers, and acquaintances. Fentanyl can be found anywhere, since its distribution in pills and powders is entirely random. While one pill may not be lethal, another could be.

HOW BAD IS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND DEATHS FROM FENTANYL?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that in the 12-month period ending in January 2022, 107,375 individuals in the United States died as a result of drug overdoses and poisonings. An astonishing 67 percent of these fatalities were linked to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Many of these deaths were caused by fentanyl mixed with other illegal substances such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin, and a significant number of users were unaware that they were taking fentanyl.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE AND WHAT TO DO

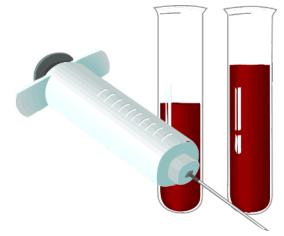
Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils" Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

It may be hard to tell if someone is experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, it's best to treat it like an overdose and call 9-1-1 immediately then administer Naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose and save lives. Naloxone is a opioid overdose reversal drug.

How to get Naloxone: Walgreens states that they offer Narcan over-the-counter in all of their pharmacies across the United States, including California. You do not have to be an adult to purchase it. Even if you make the wise choice not to use drugs, you might be in a place where someone else may need Naloxone.



50-100x MORE POTENT
THAN MORPHINE

59%
OF OPIOID-RELATED
DEATHS INVOLVE
FENTANYL

NALOXONE
CAN REVERSE AN OPIOID
OVERDOSE AND CAN BE
PURCHASED OVER THE
COUNTER WITHOUT A
PRESCRIPTION

60%
OF PILLS THAT
CONTAINED FENTANYL
HAD A LETHAL DOSE

5,692
15 TO 24 YEAR OLDS DIED
OF FENTANYL POISONING
IN 2021