



Saving Lives Through Collaborative Action

FENTANYL

What You Need To Know

Fentanyl is a **synthetic opioid**, developed to help patients suffering from extreme pain. It has similar effects to other opioids such as heroin and some painkillers. However, fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. A **lethal dose** is as small as a few grains of sand.

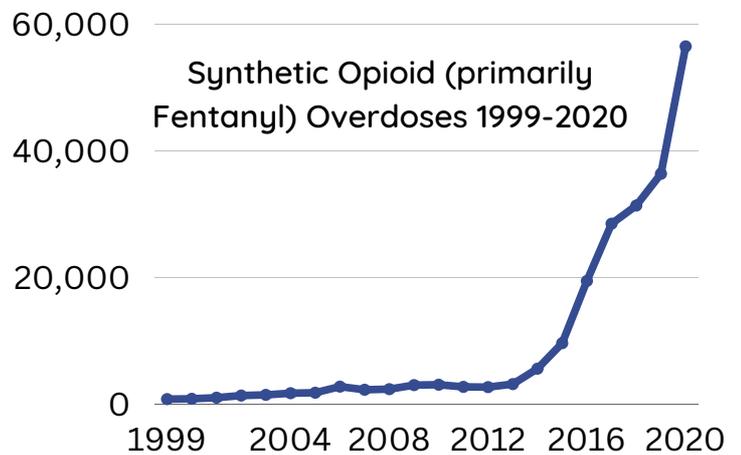
POTENCY + PRICE = FENTANYL POISONING



Fentanyl is cheap, colorless, odorless, and widely available. Dealers who sell fentanyl as if it were another drug increase their profit margins significantly. **Their contaminated drugs are cheaper, deadlier, and more addictive.**

Fentanyl is now driving the overdose epidemic: In 2020 alone, fentanyl involvement in drug overdose deaths for 14-18 year olds **grew by 169%**

OVERDOSES ARE NOW THE LEADING CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE DEATH FOR PEOPLE AGED 18-45.



ONLY USE PILLS PRESCRIBED TO YOU

Any drug not purchased through a pharmacist/pharmacy can be partially or completely made of fentanyl. **26% percent of counterfeit pills** tested by the DEA contained a lethal dose of fentanyl.



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It is more important than ever to know about the **dangers of fentanyl** and how to **respond to a crisis**. Talking about opioids can seem daunting but **difficult conversations save lives**.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

- 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 lips and nails



WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING

1. Call 911 for help.
2. Administer Narcan.
3. Perform rescue breathing.
4. Place them in a rescue position.
5. Monitor them for several hours.

Naloxone AKA Narcan, temporarily stops an overdose. It blocks opioid receptors for 30-90 minutes, allowing a person to breathe. **It has no effect on someone if they do not have opioids in their system, and anyone can administer it in an emergency.**

Overdoses can happen anywhere and when they do, Narcan can save a life.

Go to www.getnaloxonenow.org to find free Narcan available near you.



Only 27% of teenagers know that fentanyl can be in fake pills.



The more people who are prepared to respond to a crisis, the safer we all are. Share this information in your community. **Engaging in open conversations is essential.** For more information visit us at CCCMEDSCoalition.org or email info@cccmedscoalition.org

SOURCES

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