

Fact Sheet

OPIOIDS AND FENTANYL

What is an opioid?

Opioids include illegal and legal drugs such as heroin, synthetic opioids and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), codeine, morphine, fentanyl and many others. Synthetic opioids are created with chemicals, unlike plant-based opioids like heroin or morphine. According to the CDC, 107,735 Americans died from drug poisonings between August 2021 and August 2022, with 66 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Fentanyl and Fake or Pressed Pills

DEA lab testing reveals that in 2022 six out of every ten fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

Fentanyl is never evenly distributed throughout the base powder mix of pills, powders, etc. Part of the substance may have no fentanyl while the other part has a lot. This is called the Chocolate Chip Cookie Effect. Any pill you don't get directly from the pharmacy may contain a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl mixed with Xylazine (Tranq)

DEA is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Xylazine, also known as "Tranq" is a powerful sedative that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved for veterinary use. Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users as a higher risk of fatal drug poisoning.

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into other street drugs to drive addiction. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. It is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. However, illegally made fentanyl is sold through illicit drug markets for its heroin-like effect, and it is often mixed with heroin or other street drugs, such as cocaine, or pressed into counterfeit prescription pills.

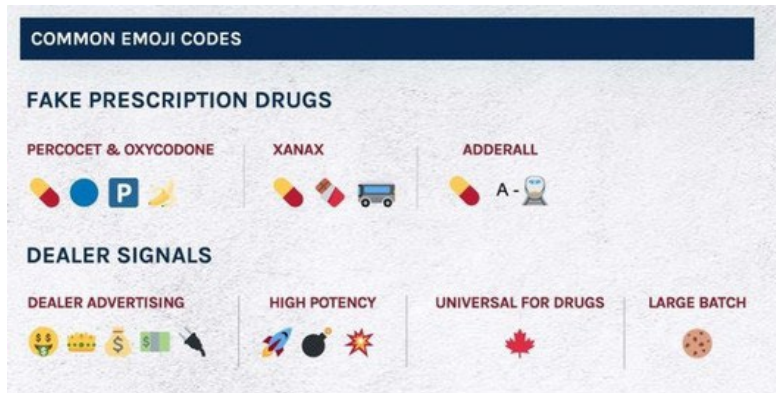


Why Should You Be Concerned?

The drug landscape is dramatically different from when you grew up or even just from a few years ago. All parents and caregivers need to be educated on current drug threats to be able to have informed talks with their kids.

How would my child get fentanyl?

Drug traffickers are using social media to advertise drugs and conduct sales. If you have a smartphone and a social media account, then a drug trafficker can find you. This also means they are finding your kids who have social media accounts. To learn about emoji codes used on social media, visit [Emoji Drug Code Decoded on www.dea.gov/onepill](http://www.dea.gov/onepill)



Responding to Overdose with Narcan

Narcan (Naloxone) is available and can save someone from an overdose or poisoning from an opioid. It is not harmful, has no abuse potential, and is protected by Good Samaritan Laws.

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

Signs of an Overdose



Not Responding
Not moving, can't be woken up



Slow or Not Breathing
Not breathing or slower than every 5 seconds



Making Sounds
Snoring, gurgling, or choking sounds



Blue Lips & Nails



Cold or Clammy Skin



Tiny Pupils

Call 9-1-1 right away if you see any of these signs.

When you call 9-1-1 to report an overdose, you won't be charged with simple drug possession



Tips for Parents and Caregivers

- Encourage open and honest communication.
- Explain what fentanyl is and why it is so dangerous
- Stress not to take any pills that were not prescribed to you by a doctor
- No pill purchased on social media is safe
- Make sure they know fentanyl has been found in most illegal drugs
- Create an "exit plan" to help your child know what to do if they are pressured to take a pill or use drugs

Resources

North Coast Resource Hub: resourcehub.nchiin.org
Substance Use resources and wrap-around services for Humboldt, Del Norte, and Curry Counties

30-second Naloxone On-Line Training:
tinyurl.com/Narcanin30

Drop the F-Bomb: dropthefbomb.com
Talk to your kids about Fentanyl.

One Pill Can Kill: dea.gov/onepill

Natural High .naturalhigh.org.fentanyl
Videos, activities, discussion guides.

Where to get Naloxone locally:

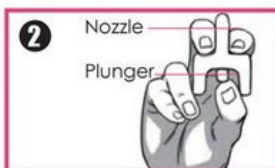
Open Door Community Health Centers

United Indian Health Centers

Public Health / NorCAP



1 Peel back the package to remove the device.



2 Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and 2 fingers on the nozzle.



3 Place and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patients nose.



4 press the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patients nose. Switch nostrils for every dose.