

Use of fentanyl

# Fentanyl Awareness

## “It Only Takes a Little To Lose a Lot”.

---



### What Is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.

### Signs of Opioid Overdose or Poisoning

Children and teens who ingest fentanyl can become sleepy or lose consciousness completely. Their breathing becomes very shallow and weak. They can become limp and have a significant decrease in their heart rates and blood pressure. Their pupils often become constricted. They can have a change of color, appearing extremely pale and/or having blue lips.”



- Marked change in activity level – confusion, lethargy; Coma
  - Cold, clammy skin; Pale skin and/or blueness of the lips
  - Change in pupil size (small pupils); Slowed, shallow breathing
-

---

## How It's Consumed

Fentanyl can be snorted/sniffed, smoked, orally by pill or tablet, spiked onto blotter paper, patches, sold alone or in combination with heroin and other substances, has been identified in fake pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as oxycodone.

## Important Information

Parents of school-aged children should talk with them about drugs in general, and the extreme dangers of taking pills not prescribed to them.

- Share with them the trends and dangers related to fentanyl-laced substances. A significant number of high school and college students purchase from dark web drug markets or through social media. They often believe they are purchasing Adderall or Xanax, which may be tainted with fentanyl.
- Talk to teens about how to handle situations if they encounter offers for pills or other drugs, including through social media. "Parents need to discuss this with their kids and make sure they feel comfortable coming to them about it," Dr. Rose says.



Previous studies have shown that school-aged children want to hear more information about drugs from their parents, and that children exposed to frequent anti-drug messages at home are less likely to become users.