# WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON THE BODY?

Fentanyl affects everyone differently, based on:

- Size, weight and health
- Whether the person is used to taking it
- Whether other drugs are taken around the same time
- Amount taken
- Strength of the drug (varies between drug form, e.g. patches, lozenges or injection).

# OVERDOSE

A fentanyl overdose may result in:

- Stupor
- Changes in pupil size
- Clammy skin
- Limp body
- Cyanosis – skin, lips, or nails turn blue due to a lack of oxygen
- Loss of consciousness
- Shallow breathing or respiratory failure leading to death

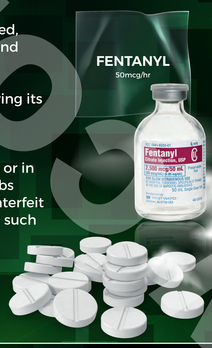
Naloxone (also known as Narcan®) reverses the effects of opiates (including fentanyl). It is available over the counter as a fast-acting nasal spray.

# HOW IS IT MISUSED?

Fentanyl can be injected, snorted/sniffed, smoked, taken orally by pill or tablet, and spiked onto blotter paper.

Fentanyl patches are abused by removing its gel contents and then injecting or consuming the contents.

Illicitly produced fentanyl is sold alone or in combination with heroin and other subs tances and has been identified in counterfeit pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as oxycodone.




# WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

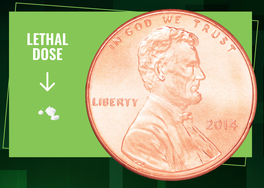
People addicted to fentanyl who stop using it can have severe withdrawal symptoms that begin as early as a few hours after the drug was last taken. These symptoms include:

- Muscle and bone pain
- Sleep problems
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- Cold flashes with goosebumps
- Uncontrollable leg movements
- Severe cravings

# WHY IS IT SO DANGEROUS?

Because just 2mg (0.0000044 lbs) is enough to be lethal, the mixture of fentanyl with other substances can quickly lead to a fatal overdose without anyone even knowing that they have consumed it.

Fentanyl cannot be smelled or tasted, making it nearly impossible to tell if drugs contain or have been laced with the opioid without special fentanyl test strips.




# ADDICTION RISK

Because of its potency, fentanyl is addictive. A person taking prescription fentanyl as instructed by a doctor can experience dependence, which is characterized by withdrawal symptoms when the drug is stopped. A person can be dependent on a substance without being addicted, but dependence can sometimes lead to addiction.

Addiction to fentanyl can result in compulsively seeking the drug and difficulty controlling use, despite harmful consequences.

# WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a very strong synthetic opioid drug that is widely used in emergency departments and hospitals, and it can also be prescribed. However, recent fentanyl-related deaths are linked to illegally made drugs.

Fentanyl that is made illegally is often referred to as

illicit fentanyl

# SIDE EFFECTS

The side effects of fentanyl are similar to

- Rash or skin reaction from a fentanyl patch
- Fatigue or drowsiness (especially soon after a dose)
- Constipation
- Loss of appetite
- Headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness
- Confusion

DOWNLOAD