

FENTANYL

HOW IT AFFECTS THE BODY

WHAT IS FENTANYL?



Fentanyl is a very strong synthetic opioid drug, approximately 100x times stronger than morphine and 50x stronger than heroin.



Just 2mg (0.0000044 lbs) can be lethal and the mixture of fentanyl with other substances can quickly lead to a fatal overdose.

It cannot be smelled or tasted, making it nearly impossible to tell if drugs contain fentanyl without special test strips.

EFFECTS OF OVERDOSE

A fentanyl overdose may result in:

- Stupor
- Pinpoint pupils
- Clammy skin
- Limp body
- Loss of consciousness
- Cyanosis - skin, lips, or nails turn blue due to a lack of oxygen
- Shallow breathing or respiratory failure leading to death

THE BRAIN

Research on fentanyl's effect on the brain has shown that the drug impairs people's breathing about four minutes before there is any noticeable change in alertness. It affects a person's breathing before they know it is happening.

ADDICTION

Because of its potency, fentanyl is addictive. A person taking prescription fentanyl as instructed by a doctor can experience dependence without being addicted, but dependence can lead to addiction, which can range from mild to severe.



WHAT IS THE RISK?

When fentanyl is used outside of a medical setting, the risk of overdose and death is very high. Opioid deaths more than doubled between 2010-2017 and continue to rise. Nearly 88% of those deaths involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

HOW TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS

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



**IF YOU SUSPECT THAT SOMEONE HAS
OVERDOSED ON FENTANYL,
DO NOT HESITATE. CALL 9-1-1!**