

FENTANYL KILLS YOU

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid used in medicine to treat severe pain. It is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, which makes it effective for patients with conditions like cancer or for pain after surgery. Medical fentanyl is given by doctors as a patch, injection, or lozenge.



Why is Fentanyl Dangerous?

Illegal fentanyl is often made and sold on the streets. It is dangerous because: **High potency:** Even a very small amount can cause an overdose.

1. **Hidden in other drugs:** Fentanyl is often mixed with heroin, cocaine, or fake prescription pills, and users might not know they are taking it.
2. **Overdose risk:** Because it is so strong, a dose as small as 2 milligrams (equal to a few grains of salt) can be fatal.

How Do Overdoses Happen?

Fentanyl affects the brain by slowing down breathing. When someone takes too much, they may experience:

- Very slow or stopped breathing.
- Confusion or trouble waking up.
- Blue or gray lips and skin.

Without quick treatment, a fentanyl overdose can cause death.

Who is at Risk?

- People who buy drugs on the streets or online.
- People who use heroin, cocaine, or pills without knowing they contain fentanyl.
- Teenagers and young adults experimenting with drugs.

How Can You Stay Safe?

1. **Avoid drugs from unknown sources:** Only take medication prescribed by a doctor.
2. **Learn the risks:** Understanding the dangers of fentanyl can help prevent accidents.
3. **Carry naloxone:** This is a medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose if given quickly.

Fentanyl and Its Impact

Fentanyl is responsible for a large number of drug-related deaths around the world. Many countries are facing an opioid crisis because of its illegal use. Spreading awareness about fentanyl is important to save lives.

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Sections for the Graphic Organizer

1. **Definition:** What fentanyl is and its medical uses.
2. **Dangers:** Why fentanyl is risky and examples of its effects.
3. **Overdose Signs:** What to look for in case of an overdose.
4. **Who is at Risk:** Groups most affected by fentanyl.
5. **Prevention:** Steps to stay safe and avoid risks.
6. **Impact:** Statistics and its global effect on public health.

