

Fentanyl

A Killer Hiding Within

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid designed to treat severe pain. It can be up to 100 times stronger than morphine. A lethal dose of fentanyl is just 0.002 grams.



Just this small amount is enough to kill you.

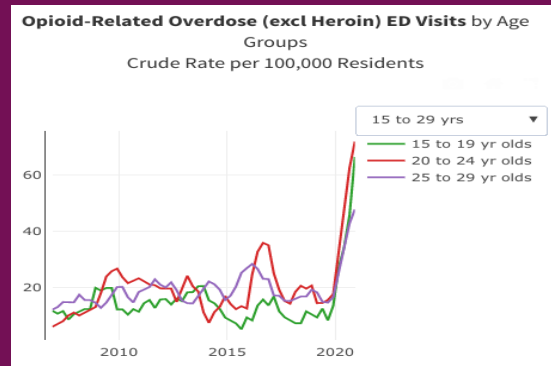


Where is it found?

Criminal networks add fentanyl to mass-produced fake pills designed to imitate the appearance of commonly used medications such as Adderall®, oxycodone, and Xanax®. Cheap to manufacture, fentanyl can also be "cut" into other illegal street drugs to increase potency.

Who is at risk?

Drug dealers use social media platforms to engage with high school and college aged students. In 2020, 64% of fentanyl related deaths in Sacramento County were in the 15-29 year old age group.



How can we prevent fentanyl poisoning deaths?

Be informed – Talk to your family about the dangers of using drugs, especially those purchased from an illicit source. Even just one pill can kill.

Be aware – Notice any sudden changes in attitudes or unusual behavior. Drowsiness, mental confusion, slurred speech or small "pinpoint" pupils may be symptoms that indicate opioid use. Opioid poisoning and overdoses can occur quickly and lead to loss of consciousness, cold and clammy skin, blueish colored lips or face, respiratory failure and death.

Be ready – County programs and local authorities can provide training and distribution of an overdose-counteracting agent called naloxone (Narcan®). It is safe, easy to use and can be effective in saving a life from an opioid overdose.

Sacramento County District Attorney's Office: pillcankillsac.com

Sacramento Opioid Coalition: sacopioidcoalition.org

United States Drug Enforcement Administration: dea.gov/onepill

California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard: skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash

Song for Charlie: songforcharlie.org