

Fentanyl facts

Are you or someone you know at risk for opioid overdose? [Learn More.](#)



What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is an opioid that is much more toxic than other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, methadone, or codeine. This makes the risk of accidental overdose with fentanyl much higher.

Illicit Fentanyl

Illicit or "bootleg" fentanyl is being made illegally and sold on the street. It is being cut into other drugs like heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and also in counterfeit pills that are made to look like other prescription pills (like 'oxycontin' or 'Percocet')

There is no easy way to know if fentanyl is in your drugs. You can't see it, smell it or taste it.

When you are getting drugs from anywhere other than from a pharmacy or medical professional (like from a friend, ordering online, or a dealer) there is no way to be sure exactly what is in them or how toxic they may be.

Any drug can be cut (mixed) with fentanyl. Even a very small amount can cause an overdose.

Prevent Overdose

If you are going to use, here are some ways to use more safely:

- Avoid using alone
- Avoid using more than one drug at a time or using drugs with alcohol
- Start with smaller amounts or "testers"
- Carry Naloxone

Signs of Overdose

- Slow or no breathing
- Lips or fingers turn blue
- Person will not wake up/is not responding
- Deep snoring, gurgling or choking sounds
- Pinpoint (tiny) pupils

Respond

What to do in case of overdose?

1. **Shake and Shout** to check responsiveness
2. **Call 911** if not responsive
3. **Give Chest Compressions** or CPR with no interruptions, except to administer naloxone
4. **Give naloxone** at any time
5. **Is it working?** Continue compressions or CPR until the person responds or EMS arrives. If they are not awake after 3 minutes, administer second dose of naloxone. Stay with them.

Naloxone

Naloxone is a medication that temporarily reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone only lasts for about 30-60 minutes but a lot of drugs last longer—this means the overdose symptoms can come back!

Naloxone can save a life while you are waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Take-home naloxone kits are available for free. See resources below.

Resources

For more information and tips:

 www.stopoverdoseottawa.ca

Visit the Site Office at 179 Clarence St Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30pm or
Call the Site Van 7 days/week 5-11:30pm @ 613-232-3232

Call the Drug & Alcohol Helpline to find out what pharmacies near you have take-home naloxone kits: 1-800-565-8603