

OPIOIDS & OVERDOSE AWARENESS



MYTH BUSTING

MYTH: "Fentanyl is only in heroin. If I'm not using hard drugs, I'm safe."

FACT: Fentanyl has been found in counterfeit pills made to look like Xanax, Adderall, Percocet, and even in some cannabis products. You cannot see, smell, or taste it.



WHY THIS MATTERS

Opioid overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. In 2023, over 80,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses, the majority involving fentanyl. Most of these were not people who considered themselves "drug users."

Knowing overdose signs and how to use naloxone can save someone's life.



WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?



Opioids bind to receptors in the brain and body to reduce pain, and produce euphoria. Prescription opioids: oxycodone (Percocet), hydrocodone (Vicodin), codeine, morphine Illicit opioids: heroin, illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) Synthetic opioids: fentanyl (100x morphine), carfentanil (10,000x morphine)

Opioids slow breathing. In overdose: breathing stops. This is what kills.

FENTANYL & THE CONTAMINATION CRISIS

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) is now found in:

- Counterfeit Xanax, Adderall, Percocet, Oxycodone
- Pressed pills from non-pharmacy sources
- Increasingly in other drugs (cocaine, MDMA)

One pill can kill. A lethal dose is 2 milligrams — invisible to the naked eye. There is NO safe way to tell a real pill from a fake without a fentanyl test strip.





RECOGNIZING AN OVERDOSE

Signs of opioid overdose: act immediately:

- Unresponsive, won't wake up
- Slow, shallow, or stopped breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds ("death rattle")
- Blue or grayish lips, fingertips, or face (cyanosis)
- Pinpoint (very small) pupils
- Limp body

This is a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that reverses opioid overdose within minutes.

- Nasal spray: no needles, no training required
- Available OTC at CVS, Walgreens, most pharmacies
- Free at many harm reduction centers and health departments
- It cannot harm someone who hasn't taken opioids
- Multiple doses may be needed for fentanyl overdose

Having Narcan is not enabling drug use. It is preventing death.

NALOXONE (NARCAN)





Fentanyl test strips detect fentanyl in drugs before use.

- Dissolve a small amount of the substance in water, dip the strip
- Result in 2-5 minutes
- Available free at many harm reduction organizations
- Legal in most U.S. states

**Drug checking is harm reduction, not endorsement.
If a test comes back positive: do not use. Period.**

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS HELP