

FENTANYL WARNING

Overdose Risk, Protection, and Tips

Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, has been found hidden in heroin and cocaine. It has also been combined with and sold on the street as “Xanax”, “Roxies”, “Norcos”, and other pills. There have been incidents across the nation, and several recently in California, that have resulted in a rash of overdoses and deaths over a short period of time. This can happen again, so please be aware.

What to be aware of:

- One can't tell for sure - just by looking - if fentanyl is in a drug.
- Fentanyl acts FAST - in minutes when ingested, in SECONDS when injected. Breathing can slow or stop almost immediately. Overdose is a high risk.
- Fentanyl is measured in MICROGRAMS unlike most drugs which are measured in grams or milligrams. That means one microgram of fentanyl is one-MILLIONTH of a gram. Fentanyl is extremely powerful. It is used medically during and after surgery.
- Naloxone (Narcan) can reverse a fentanyl overdose, but there must be quick action, and repeated doses may be necessary. **Fentanyl can be fatal within 10-15 minutes.**

Messages:

- Be informed about fentanyl and inform others.
- Carry naloxone (Narcan) and replace it as soon as you use it, lose it, or give it away.
- ASSUME FENTANYL could be in any street drugs you purchase (pills, cocaine/crack, heroin, speed/meth), even if you don't normally use opioids. Fentanyl has been showing up in various drugs. Go slow if your drugs look, smell, taste, dissolve differently, or if they just seem “off” in any way. Take a taste. Do less at first. Do a test-shot.
- Use with someone else so you can look after each other. Stagger your use so you can be alert if someone needs help (meaning, don't all get high at the same exact time!).

Overdose (*person is unresponsive, their breathing slows or stops*):

- Call 9-1-1. Say that the person is “not breathing” and is “unresponsive.” The Good Samaritan Law in California should protect you and the overdosing person from arrest for small amounts of drugs and paraphernalia, but not all cops know about this law, so use common sense.
- Administer naloxone (Narcan) right away. Multiple doses may be necessary.
- Start rescue breathing. Learn how here:

<http://harmreduction.org/issues/overdose-prevention/overview/overdose-basics/responding-to-opioid-overdose/perform-rescue-breathing>

For More Information on Fentanyl and Where to Find Naloxone, Contact:

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