

The Real Deal on Fentanyl

Parents and Caregivers,

The U.S. is facing an overdose crisis caused by fentanyl — a powerful synthetic opioid. In school, your child has been learning about the risks of fentanyl and reversing an opioid overdose with a program from the Ad Council, in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and educational specialists at Young Minds Inspired. This handout features information about fentanyl to help you talk with your child about the crisis and help keep your family safe.



What is fentanyl?

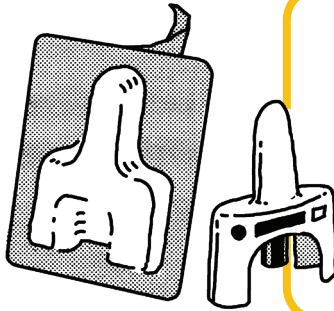
- Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.
- It is cheap to produce and used to manufacture illicit drugs.
- It may be found in fake pills that look like real medication.

How can we reduce the risks?

- Make sure your children know to only take pills prescribed by a doctor and filled at a pharmacy, and not to take pills from a friend even if they say that they're real.
- Know the signs of an overdose: tiny pupils; limp body; inability to talk; cold or clammy skin; breathing is very slow or has stopped; extremely sleepy or passing out; snoring, choking, or gurgling sounds; pale, gray, or bluish skin.
- Be prepared to take action in the event of an overdose.
- Carry naloxone.

Why is fentanyl a concern?

- Overdose deaths among people ages 10-19 doubled from 2019 to 2021. 84% of these overdoses involved fentanyl.
- 2 milligrams of fentanyl is considered a potentially lethal amount — that's about the size of a few grains of sand or salt.
- You can't see, smell, or taste if a drug contains fentanyl.
- Many kids do not use fentanyl on purpose. They buy counterfeit pills online or get them from friends they trust to help them study or cope with stress or depressed feelings without knowing that they're fake versions of prescription pills and may contain fentanyl.



What is naloxone?

- Naloxone is a fast-acting medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.
- It's safe, legal, and available without a prescription in all 50 states.
- Learn more at dropthebomb.com/reverse-an-overdose.

How can I help my child?

- Talk with your child about the risks of fentanyl.
- Encourage them to speak with you or another trusted adult if they're struggling with emotions or are concerned about a friend.
- Discuss naloxone. Even if you feel that drugs and counterfeit pills are not something your family has to worry about, remember that you or your child could potentially save someone's life as a bystander by carrying naloxone.

Learn more

Check out realdealonfentanyl.com with your child and dropthebomb.com (for parents) to learn more about fentanyl and talking to your child about it.

