

# fentanyl: fentanyl: fentanyl: changes everything



**FACING  
FENTANYL**

**#FacingFentanyl**

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING  
AS A SAFE DOSE OF FENTANYL**

it's highly addictive and just  
2mgs is enough to kill



**7 out of 10 fake pills contain a  
lethal dose**

- Illicit fentanyl has been found in all street drugs including heroin, cocaine & meth.
- Illicit fentanyl has been found in fake pressed pills that look like pharmaceutical-grade Percocet, Adderall, and Xanax.
- Illicit fentanyl is odorless and tasteless. You won't know it's hiding in the drugs you choose to use or try.

*Why take the risk? In today's drug market, it is impossible to know if a drug contains fentanyl. Even marijuana and vape pens have the potential to be laced. Do not take anything not prescribed to you by a doctor and purchased from a licensed pharmacy.*

**facingfentanylnow.org**

**-Illicit fentanyl is a man  
made synthetic opioid**

**-50x's stronger than heroin 100x's  
more potent than morphine**

**-Fentanyl poisoning is the #1 cause  
of death in Americans ages 18-45**

**WARNING**

**SIGNS OF  
FENTANYL POISONING  
or OPIOID OVERDOSE**

- ☠ Unconsciousness, very small pupils, vomiting, inability to speak, limp arms & legs, purple lips and/or fingernails
- ☠ Discolored Skin: bluish/purple (lighter skin complexions); grayish (darker skin complexions)
- ☠ Weak pulse, foaming at the mouth, and/or blood from nose and mouth
- ☠ Snoring, gasping or gurgling sounds - heartbeat slows or stops



**IMMEDIATELY**  
CALL 911 IF YOU SUSPECT  
FENTANYL POISONING  
BE SAFE NOT SORRY!

**CARRY NALOXONE**

**THIS SPRAY CAN...  
SAVE A LIFE!**

Naloxone (Narcan) is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. It can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of a poisoning or opioid overdose. It has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system, and it is not a treatment for opioid use disorder. Naloxone needs to be administered immediately, every second counts.



# Harm Reduction Starts with Prevention

Determining if your child is experimenting with substances can be quite challenging. The signs of drug use in teenagers often resemble typical behavior seen in young adults, sometimes overlapping with symptoms of mental health issues like depression or anxiety.

**FACING  
FENTANYL**

In 2022, 48.7 million people aged 12 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year, including 29.5 million who had an alcohol use disorder, 27.2 million who had a drug use disorder, and 8.0 million people who had both an alcohol use disorder and drug use disorder.

## Prevention & Prompt Engagement:

Adolescent and young adult stages are characterized by a whirlwind of confusion, complexity, and crucial development. Grasping the social and developmental dynamics in teens, particularly how they intertwine with substance use, is pivotal in laying the groundwork for positive outcomes.

## Ways to spot signs of drug/alcohol use:



### Smell

You can engage in authentic, direct communication when your child returns from socializing with friends. If they've consumed alcohol or smoked, the aroma may linger on their breath, attire, and hair.



### Eye Contact

Observe their eyes closely; they may appear red and droopy, with narrowed pupils indicating marijuana use. Dilated pupils and trouble focusing may suggest alcohol consumption. Additionally, a flushed, reddened complexion can also signal drinking.



### Pay Attention to Behavior

Monitor how they act after returning from activities with friends. Do you notice them acting differently than before they left? Are they unusually loud, hyper, clumsy or withdrawn, tired and standoffish? Do they seem sick and spend time in the bathroom? These behaviors may suggest the possibility of alcohol consumption, marijuana use, or involvement with other illicit substances.



### Explore their space

If there's reason to be concerned, you may choose to investigate further than the boundaries of the main living areas. Be ready to justify your decision to search their personal space, whether or not you inform them ahead of time. Emphasize your concern for their well-being. Common places include inside drawers (beneath or between items), in small cases, under the furniture, inside other medicine containers or snack bags,

## Key Indicator Signs:

### Shifts in mood/personality

- Sullen, withdrawn or depressed
- Less motivated
- Silent, uncommunicative
- Hostile, angry, uncooperative
- Deceitful or secretive
- Unable to focus
- Loss of inhibitions
- Hyperactivity or unusually animated

### Behavioral changes

- Changed relationships w/family or friends
- Absenteeism or loss of interest in school, work or other activities
- Avoids eye contact
- Locks doors
- Disappears for long periods
- Goes out often, frequently breaking curfew
- Secretive with the use of phone
- Makes endless excuses
- Cash problems
- Has become clumsy
- Periods of sleeplessness or high energy, followed by long periods of "catch up" sleep

### Hygiene & appearance

- Smell of smoke or other unusual smells on breath or clothes
- Messier than usual appearance
- Poor hygiene
- Frequently red or flushed cheeks or face
- Burns or soot on fingers or lips
- Track marks on arms or legs

### Physical health

- Frequent sickness
- Unusually tired
- Unable to speak intelligibly, slurred speech
- Nosebleeds, running nose
- Sores, spots around mouth
- Sudden weight loss or gain
- Skin abrasions/bruises
- Frequent perspiration
- Seizures and/or vomiting

# FACING FENTANYL

Fentanyl deaths of children under 14 are surging, and now is the time to talk about it.

**Start the conversation now**



Teens have become the target of fake pills, and the number of fentanyl deaths is beyond alarming. We emphasize the importance of having conversations with your loved ones about this lethal threat.



Teens have different reasons for using prescription pills and experimentation often plays a part in kids' lives. Reasons like curiosity or believing a pill can help them cope or help them with their studies can all be deadly.



Fear often prevents people from helping. Teens must know the signs of an overdose and call 911 for help if they see or hear of someone taking a counterfeit prescription pill. Good Samaritan Laws can protect those who call 911 to report an overdose, and they will not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted.



We must talk to kids about the risks of drug use and why they should never take a pill that hasn't been prescribed to them by their doctor. Healthy coping mechanisms can reduce harm. Develop a plan for your child's social media and talk about real risks before it's too late.



Illicit fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that doesn't discriminate. It doesn't differentiate age, ethnicity, socio-economic background, or geographic location. Fentanyl is impacting every community.



Drug traffickers make pills in all shapes, colors, and sizes that appeal to teens and use social media to distribute them. As a result, teens may think they're getting a legitimate prescription medication such as Oxycodone, Adderall, or Xanax pills but instead are buying counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl and methamphetamine.



Drug deals are no longer done just on the streets. Online platforms and all forms of social media are popular places for teens to purchase these pills. Snapchat is a platform that provides anonymity, disappearing content and does not allow third-party monitoring. Drug dealers can post anonymous stories with their "menu" and receive "orders" directly on the app, all of which will disappear, making it hard to track.

\*Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Just 2 milligrams of fentanyl, equal to a few grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose. Illegally manufactured fentanyl is not just found in counterfeit pills. It's in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and other "street drugs". As a result, many people may not know they're ingesting fentanyl, leading to accidental poisoning.

[FacingFentanylNow.org](https://FacingFentanylNow.org)



# TALKING PREVENTION WITH TEENS



## **Be clear about the risks**

Make sure teens understand that fentanyl isn't some far-off threat—it's affecting our community, and young people like them are in real danger. Thinking that only those who buy drugs from strangers are at risk is a dangerous misconception. There are no safe sources for illicit drugs. It's crucial to drive this point home.



## **Remind them to seek help**

Remember, life is precious and worth more than any friendship. Don't hesitate to speak up if you're worried about a friend. Please encourage them to seek support and help. If you suspect someone is supplying drugs to students or if someone's safety is at risk, you can report anonymously through platforms like *Say Something*. It's crucial to have these conversations with your friends and share what you've learned today.

**Let's talk about the risk clearly. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that's incredibly potent—up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It's sneaky too—no taste, no smell, and nearly invisible. Just a tiny amount, like two grains of salt, can trigger an overdose. It's often mixed into pills to mimic prescription opioids, but it's also found in other drugs like cocaine and, alarmingly, even marijuana. Don't fall for the idea of a "safe" source. Fentanyl gets mixed in long before drugs reach the people teens trust to get them. It's unpredictable too—while one pill might not be harmful, the next could be deadly.**

**Educate *Act* Prevent**

**The United States is experiencing an unparalleled surge in drug deaths attributed to fentanyl, a lethal opioid frequently mixed into pills, powdered illicit substances, and even marijuana. This conversation guide can help equip you to engage teens in discussions about fentanyl, empowering them to make informed decisions for their safety.**



## **Telling teens not to do drugs isn't an effective strategy.**

Having a straightforward chat with teens about drugs can be more effective than just saying, "Don't do it." Some might ignore warnings if they feel judged. So, let's focus on facts and tips that can save lives. It's important to listen to them rather than just sharing our own views.



## **Hey, have you heard about naloxone?**

It's a lifesaving antidote for opioid overdoses. Whether you're already familiar with it or not, it's essential information. Here's the deal: Naloxone is legal for everyone, including teens, and you can grab it from local pharmacies or a local harm reduction organization. They even offer free training sessions. If you're curious or have questions, don't hesitate to hit up the pharmacy. It's smart to involve a parent, too, and explaining why you're interested in naloxone is important.



[facingfentanylnow.org](http://facingfentanylnow.org)

# COLLEGE

**FACING  
FENTANYL**

## DRUGS & PREVENTION

College, for many young adults, is a time to explore and experiment, often leading them to partake in risky behaviors such as binge drinking, prescription drug misuse, and recreational drug use, all prevalent issues on college grounds.

Students spend significant time in schools, so educational institutions have a unique role in working with parents, guardians, and the community. School districts are in a good position to educate students and families about fentanyl, synthetic drugs, and emerging substances. You may consider launching a fentanyl awareness campaign and incorporating opioid and fentanyl prevention modules and even an overdose emergency response plan into the school's health education program.

### Does your school have these important Campus Tools for safety?

#### Prevention Education

Over the past decade, Fentanyl, an extremely potent opioid, has surged across the nation, leaving devastation in its wake. Approximately 50 times more powerful than heroin, this drug has triggered a rise in overdose and poisoning fatalities, particularly in urban areas. Dubbed the "fentanyl epidemic," this crisis has mercilessly claimed thousands of lives, cutting across diverse segments of American society. Given the heightened vulnerability of college students to substance misuse, comprehending the magnitude of this crisis and its associated risk factors is imperative for steering clear of potentially catastrophic consequences and making resources available for students to learn how to recognize and prevent opioid overdose and poisoning is crucial to saving lives.

#### Naloxone Safety and Accessibility

As the number of college students grappling with opiate use, overdoses, and fatalities continues to surge, despite advancements in prevention messaging and the proliferation of recovery programs on campuses, it's evident that further measures are urgently needed. Among these is the availability of Naloxone on college grounds. Having Naloxone stashed away in a nurse's office or stocked in a health center cabinet isn't ideal, as the window to respond to and reverse an overdose is incredibly brief—mere minutes. Naloxone must be directly accessible to those most likely to encounter an overdose: roommates, family members, or friends. Placing Naloxone in dorms or easy-find locations around campus is the best way to act quickly in a crisis.

#### Good Samaritans Policy

A Good Samaritan Policy is designed to save lives by encouraging students to act promptly during medical emergencies related to alcohol or drugs. Students often hesitate to seek help during such emergencies due to concerns about facing severe disciplinary actions for alcohol and drug violations. This hesitation can be life-threatening but can be avoided. The Good Samaritan Policy offers amnesty and shields students from disciplinary measures in medical emergencies to encourage swift responses.



# What You Should Know

## Social Media and Youth

# Apps Like Snap & Drugs

Snapchat dealers are selling Fentanyl disguised as prescription drugs, like Oxycodone, Adderall, and Xanax. They promote their products through disappearing messages and stories on apps like Snapchat. They believe that using Snapchat will keep their drug dealing activities anonymous.

Sadly, Fentanyl poisoning is now one of the leading causes of death among American teenagers.



Disappearing messages are harmful. Users can send and receive direct messages, connect with strangers, and do most of what they can on other apps, but with a dangerous twist; everything seems to disappear.

This means:

Kids take more risks because they think Snapchat is "safer."  
(leading to bullying and sexploitation)



Drug traffickers have turned smartphones into a one-stop shop to market, sell, buy, and deliver deadly, fake prescription pills and other dangerous drugs. In just three steps, deadly drugs can be purchased and delivered to your home just like any other good or service. #ONEPILLCANKILL [dea.gov/onepill](http://dea.gov/onepill)



Visit Our Website  
[www.facingfentanylnow.org](http://www.facingfentanylnow.org)

**FACING  
FENTANYL**

# Social Media and Youth

## What you need to know

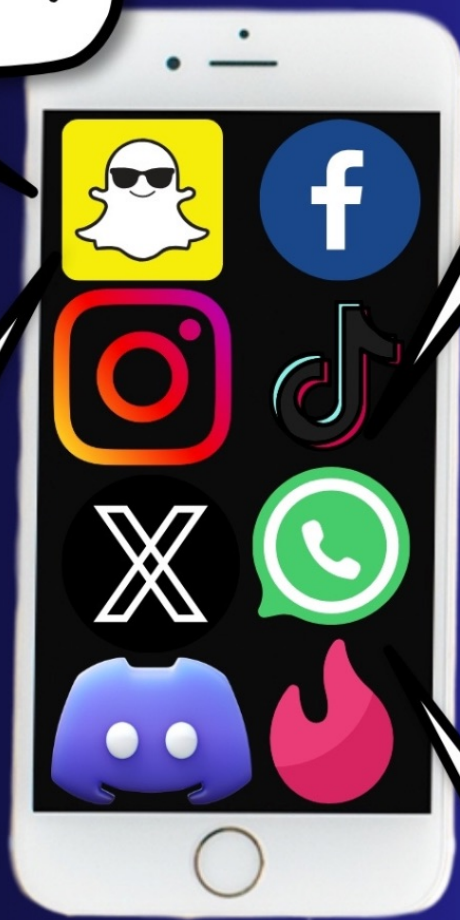
Snapchat dealers are selling Fentanyl disguised as prescription drugs, like Oxycodone, Adderal, and Xanax. They promote their products through disappearing messages and stories on apps like Snapchat. They believe that using Snapchat will keep their drug dealing activities anonymous.

Sadly, Fentanyl poisoning is now one of the leading causes of death among American teenagers.

Prospective buyers contact drug traffickers on social media apps in response to their advertisements – either using direct messaging or by commenting on a post. Once contact is made, drug traffickers and potential buyers often move to an encrypted communications app like WhatsApp, Signal, and Telegram. Drug traffickers typically switch to these encrypted communications apps to arrange drug deals with prospective buyers.

Disappearing messages are harmful. Users can send and receive direct messages, connect with strangers, and do most of what they can on other apps, but with a dangerous twist: everything seems to disappear. This means: Kids take more risks because they think Snapchat is "safer." (leading to bullying and exploitation)

Sellers are often active on multiple social media platforms, Internet sites, and dark web marketplaces simultaneously and break up transactions across multiple platforms



Drug traffickers have turned smartphones into a one-stop shop to market, sell, buy, and deliver deadly, fake prescription pills and other dangerous drugs. In just three steps, deadly drugs can be purchased and delivered to your home just like any other good or service.

#ONEPILLCANKILL [dea.gov/onepill](https://dea.gov/onepill)



Visit Our Website  
[www.facingfentanylnow.org](https://www.facingfentanylnow.org)

**FACING  
FENTANYL**

# FACING FENTANYL

# XYLAZINE FACTS

Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer not approved for human use, has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths nationwide in the evolving drug addiction and overdose crisis.



Illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl can be mixed with xylazine, either to enhance drug effects or increase street value by increasing their weight.

Xylazine is almost always found in combination with opioids, like fentanyl

People who use illegal drugs may not be aware of the presence of xylazine.

People who inject drug mixtures containing Xylazine can also develop severe wounds, including necrosis - the rotting of human tissue - that may lead to amputation

## Common Street Names

Tranq    Zombie Drug  
Philly Dope    Tranq Dope

## Symptoms & Health Risks

Sedation  
Difficulty Breathing  
Blurred Vision  
Disorientation & staggering  
Dangerously low blood pressure  
Slowed heart rate  
Inability to respond  
Wounds that can become infected  
Severe withdrawal symptoms  
Unconsciousness  
Death

Xylazine is not an opioid, and Naloxone (Narcan) will not reverse its effects. However, experts still recommend administering Naloxone if someone might be suffering from drug poisoning because xylazine is often used with drug mixtures like fentanyl.

## IMMEDIATELY

CALL 911 IF YOU SUSPECT FENTANYL POISONING  
BE SAFE NOT SORRY!

[facingfentanylnow.org](http://facingfentanylnow.org)



THIS SPRAY CAN...  
SAVE A LIFE!



"FRANKENSTEIN OPIOIDS" ARE EVEN MORE LETHAL THAN THE DRUGS ALREADY RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MANY OVERDOSE AND POISONING DEATHS

# DEADLIER THAN FENTANYL?

A DRUG THAT WAS NEVER APPROVED FOR MEDICAL USE

# NITAZENES

## What is a Nitazene?

Nitazenes are potent synthetic opioids from a drug class known as benzimidazole-opioids.

## What do Nitazenes look like?

Nitazenes can be found as a white powder, crystalline solid or brown/yellow powder. They have also been found mixed in counterfeit pills, heroin, ketamine and synthetic cannabinoids.

## How are Nitazenes different from other Opioids?

The primary difference between Nitazenes and other opioid drugs is in their potency. Nitazenes are one of the most potent opioids on the illicit drug market today. They are cheaper to produce than fentanyl or heroin and 2-40 times stronger than fentanyl. These substances are chemically engineered to mimic the effects of traditional opioids, such as heroin or prescription painkillers, making them highly sought after in the illicit drug market.

## Nitazenes and public health:

The everchanging illicit drug market, with the introduction of substances such as Nitazenes, presents significant challenges for public health and law enforcement. The emergence of Nitazenes in forensic testing, despite their presence for decades, underscores the continual evolution of synthetic drugs and the complexities in monitoring their constantly shifting chemical compositions. Illicit drug suppliers often make deliberate modifications to evade legal restrictions and detection techniques.

## Nitazenes in polydrug mixtures:

Nitazenes are being mixed in with other drugs like fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and xylazine, making the effects of the drugs more potent and the chance for overdose or death more severe.



**FACING  
FENTANYL**



Common Nitazenes Include:  
Isotonitazene (ISO)  
Metonitazene  
Etonitazene  
Protonitazene



Nitazenes can be injected, inhaled or swallowed (tablet form)



Effects of Nitazenes:  
Short term - Euphoria, Drowsiness, Itchiness, Nausea/Vomiting, Fever/Sweating, Pain relief, Slow breathing/Heart rate  
Overdose/Poisoning - Slow/shallow breathing, bluish/greyish lips & complexion, passing out, coma, death

*\*Nitazenes can be reversed by Naloxone but often take multiple doses*



**IMMEDIATELY**  
CALL 911 IF YOU SUSPECT AN OPIOID POISONING OR OVERDOSE  
BE SAFE NOT SORRY!



Naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose/poisoning. It can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of a poisoning or opioid overdose. It has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system, and it is not a treatment for opioid use disorder. Naloxone needs to be administered immediately; every second counts.

For more information visit: [facingfentanylnow.org](http://facingfentanylnow.org)

Resources provided by: [dea.gov](http://dea.gov) [aafp.org](http://aafp.org) [adf.org.au](http://adf.org.au) [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)