



What you need to know about Fentanyl



What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a very strong opioid. There is pharmaceutical grade Fentanyl that is used in hospitals. There is also Illicit Fentanyl, this is what is killing our youth at epic rates. It is illegally produced in Mexico and trafficked into the U.S. It is being pressed into fake pills made to look like Xanax, Percocet, and Oxycodone. It is also being found laced in heroin, meth, cocaine and even marijuana. You must assume that if it does not come from a pharmacy that it is counterfeit and laced with deadly Illicit Fentanyl.

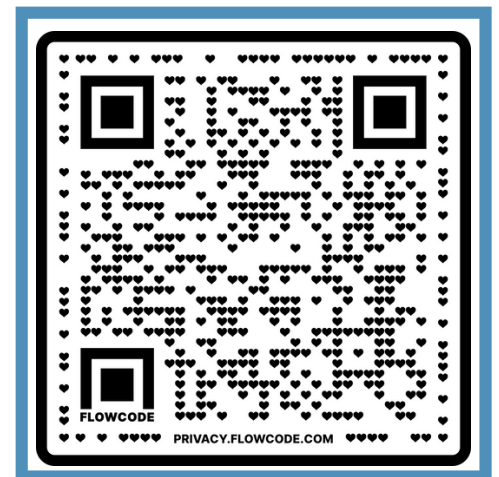
WHY IS FENTANYL A THREAT TO OUR YOUTH?

Youth will use drugs for different reasons.

- Youth may use a drug to cope with a mental illness, emotional challenges or stress
- They may be just experimenting in a social setting
- They may desire the euphoric effects opioids can give you

Fake pills are easy to get

- Snapchat is the most popular platform due to content disappearing after 24 hours.
- Social media has credited easy access to pills and other drugs
- It has become more easily obtained at school or through friends.



What they don't know

- What they are getting is not what they think but counterfeit fake pills laced with Fentanyl.
- What exactly Fentanyl is or that it takes so little to kill you instantly.
- They likely do not know the signs when someone is overdosing or poisoning.
- What to do in the event of an overdose or poisoning.

Riverside County has seized enough counterfeit pills to kill everyone in the county two times.

What can we do together to reduce the risk to our youth?

Most important is to eliminate the thought that it can't happen to your child because they don't use drugs or are not an addict!

It can happen to anyone's child since it only takes one pill, one time to be deadly.

- Assume all pills offered are counterfeit and contain Fentanyl. You cannot tell the difference by looking at them.
 - Do not take any pill that was not given to you by a pharmacist.
 - DO NOT buy or take anything bought off social media such as Snapchat.
- Do not assume a friend will save you or that you can trust what they give you!
 - Just because one pill seems safe does not mean another from the same batch is.
 - The amounts of Fentanyl in a pill varies, splitting pills is just as dangerous.
- Be educated on the signs of an opioid overdose or poisoning. Never use alone
 - Know how to use Naloxone (Narcan) and have easy access to it. It can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose or poisoning if administered quickly.
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Signs of an overdose/poisoning

- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow, labored, shallow or no breathing
- Gurgling or snoring
- Difficult to arouse or wake up.
- Extreme drowsiness
- Cold, clammy skin, pale
- Grey/blue skin, fingernails or lips

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Talk to youth about the dangers. Encourage an open line of communication about risky behavior, social pressure and the dangers of Fentanyl. Let them know often it is okay to discuss mental health issues.

Keep medication locked up and away.

If you are worried about your kids or their friends, have Narcan available in the home. Ensure to educate yourself and everyone in the home how to use it, access it and to always call 911.

Know and understand California's 911 Good Samaritan Law. No life should be lost out of fear of calling for help.

Overdose/Poisoning has risen 8,800% since 2016