



The Realities of Drug Addiction

Fentanyl:

An Extremely Dangerous Opioid and Major Contributor to Overdose Deaths

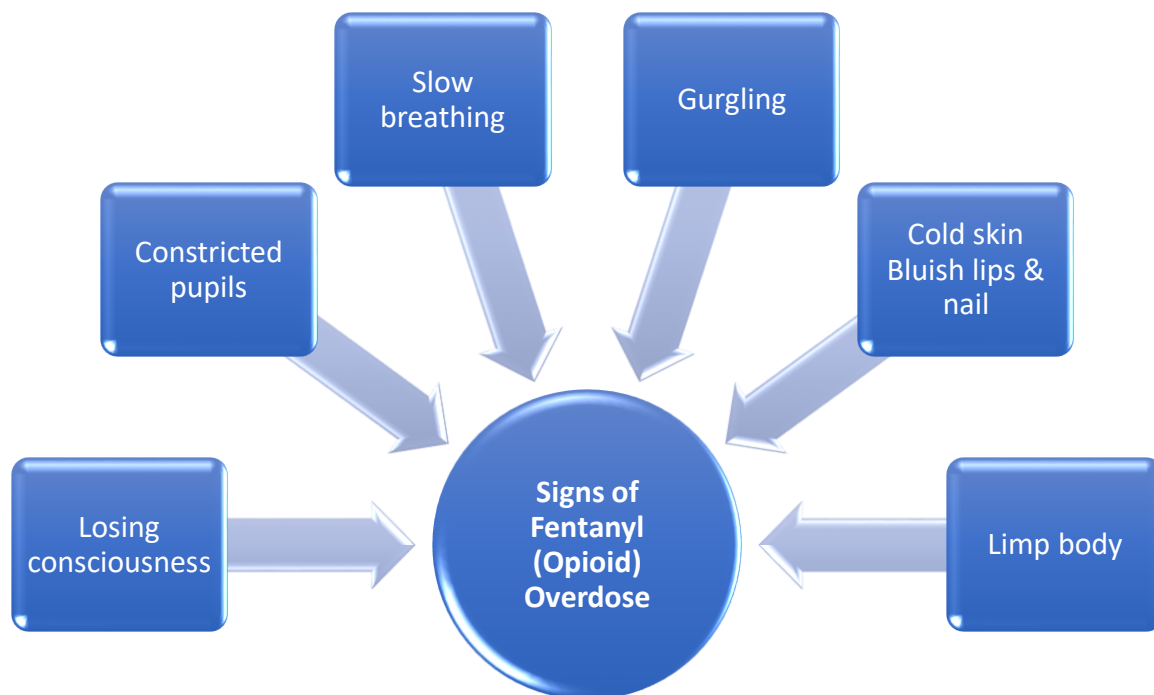
- *Illegal fentanyl is responsible for ~60% of accidental overdose deaths in the U.S.*
- *There is also a legal pharmaceutical fentanyl that can be prescribed by a healthcare provider for management of severe pain.*

Facts About Illegal Fentanyl:

- ⇒ Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid primarily manufactured in foreign labs and is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.
- ⇒ It is commonly mixed with cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines and is made into pills that resemble prescription opioids (i.e.: oxycodone).
- ⇒ Fentanyl can be in liquid form and can be found in nasal sprays and eye drops.
- ⇒ Rainbow Fentanyl, a new product on the market comes in different shapes, sizes, and bright colors and may be in the form of pills, powder, and blocks (like sidewalk chalk).
- ⇒ There is no way to know if a drug is laced with Fentanyl unless it is tested with a fentanyl test strip.

The high potency of fentanyl significantly increases the risk of overdose. It only takes 2 salt sized grains of fentanyl to fatally overdose. The amount of fentanyl in a drug varies because it is difficult to mix an even amount of fentanyl with other drugs.

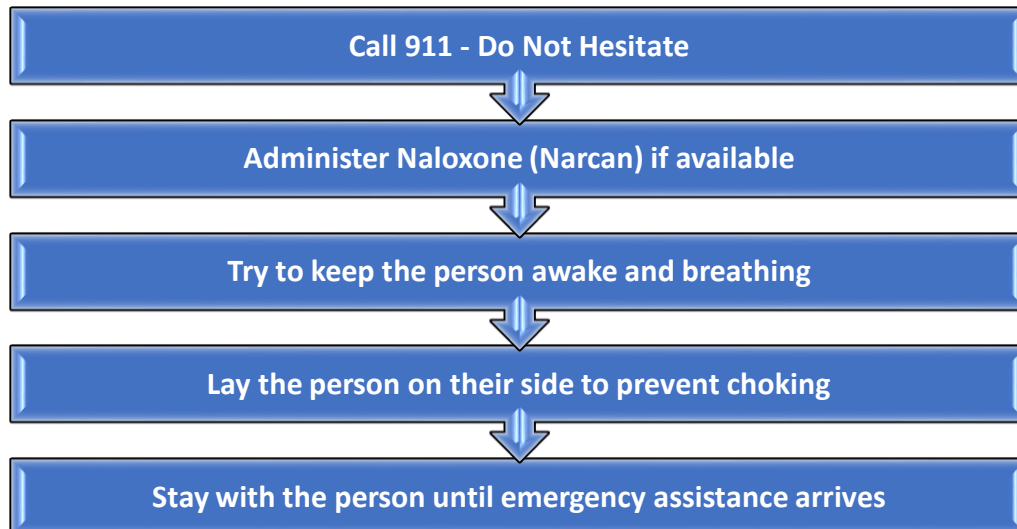
Signs of Fentanyl Overdose





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Actions to Take for a Suspected Fentanyl Overdose:
Person has a pulse and is breathing but symptomatic of an overdose.



What is Naloxone (Narcan):

- Naloxone is a drug that can reverse an opioid overdose. It may take more than 1 dose of Naloxone to reverse the opioid effect. A second dose of Naloxone can be given in 3 minutes if there is no response from the first dose.
- **Naloxone is available at pharmacies as a nasal spray and does not need a prescription.**
- If you or someone in the home has an addiction to opioids or drugs that could be laced with fentanyl, it is recommended that Naloxone be kept in the home.



Naloxone Nasal Spray

Important Points:

- If the person does not have a pulse or is not breathing, it is important to ***initiate CPR immediately.***
- A delay in initiating emergency care may result in death.
- **Never hesitate to call 911 because you are afraid of getting in trouble with the police.** Many states have laws to protect the person who overdosed and the person calling for help.

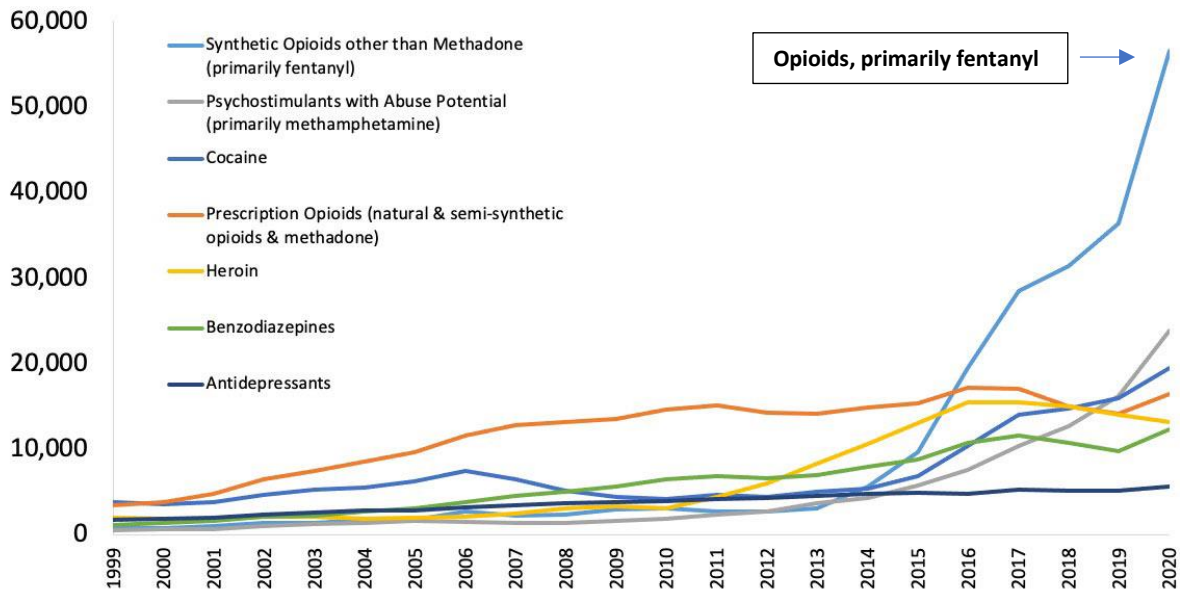
Fentanyl is an extremely dangerous opioid that is fueling drug overdoses and deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths from synthetic opioids increased over 56% from 2019 to 2020.



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Below is a graph that shows the significant increase in overdose deaths from fentanyl.

Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2020



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021.

Rainbow fentanyl is used to entice younger kids. It does not take long for a person to get addicted to opioids so educating young children, teens, and adults is one way to help prevent drug use.



Rainbow Fentanyl



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