

FENTANYL FAST FACTS

Fentanyl is potent and dangerous

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50x more potent than heroin and 100x more potent than morphine. Only 2mg, roughly the size of a pencil tip, can cause a lethal overdose. People as young as 14 have died to fentanyl overdose in Arizona.

Fentanyl comes in many forms



Most commonly, fentanyl comes in pill form but also in powder form or mixed into other drugs to lace them and increase addiction. Fentanyl is also smoked, injected, or snorted by some. Fentanyl may look like candy or chalk and are sometimes referred to as "skittles" or other candy names.

Many people have meant to take other pills such as painkillers and they turn out to be fentanyl rather than the expected drug. Many teens and young adults are using social media to find drugs, meaning they are even less sure of what they are taking. This heightens the already concerning trend of abusing pills. Even dealers can be unaware that their substances contain fentanyl.

77% of teen drug overdose deaths in 2021 were linked to fentanyl.

(Friedman et al., 2022)

In September 2022, 400,000 fentanyl pills were seized in Avondale, Arizona by Homeland Security Investigations agents.

From: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/three-individuals-charged-distributing-over-400000-fentanyl-pills-and-25-pounds>

In 2023 in Arizona, there were

- 4,078 verified non-fatal opioid overdose events
- 1,928 confirmed opioid deaths

From: Arizona Department of Health Services
<https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/#dashboards-nonfatal-overdoses>

Signs/symptoms of fentanyl use



- Feelings of euphoria
- Drowsiness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Constipation
- Sedation
- Tolerance
- Addiction

Signs of overdose

- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Loss of consciousness
- Choking, gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Blue-looking skin or lips



From: <https://www.maricopa.gov/5981/Focus-on-Fentanyl>

Naloxone can save lives

Naloxone, or NARCAN, can reverse fentanyl overdose and can be found at various agencies and pharmacies. Find a distribution site at spwaz.org/arizonanaloxone/ *If you believe someone has consumed fentanyl and needs attention, call 911 for emergency services immediately.

Touchstone's Health Services provides behavioral health services in partnership with the school district and family. Services are available for a variety of mental health concerns, including substance use disorders. Learn more: <https://www.touchstonehs.org>

If you are concerned about someone's use of substances or you are struggling with substance use, reach out for help.

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

For additional resources check out

<https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

Sources:

<https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

https://www.azcjc.gov/Portals/0/Documents/pubs/2021_August_Newsletter.pdf

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/three-individuals-charged-distributing-over-400000-fentanyl-pills-and-25-pounds>

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/308156#misuse>

<https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/#dashboards-nonfatal-overdoses>

Friedman, J., Godvin, M., Shover, C.L., Gone, J.P., Hansen, H., Schriger, D.L. (2022).

Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths Among US Adolescents, January 2010 to June 2021.

Journal of the American Medical Association, 327(14): 1398-1400.

doi:10.1001/jama.2022.2847



@touchstone-health-services



facebook.com/touchstonehs

