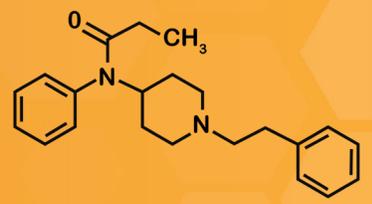


The Dangers of Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs



Approximately **94,358 deaths** from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have occurred over the past 5 years, making them the principal driver of opioid-related deaths in the U.S.

Due to nationwide implementation of stricter regulations and prescribing practices, there are fewer prescription opioids available on the black market.

This has led many non-medical users of prescription opioids to switch to heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Moreover, fentanyl's low price, high availability, and high potency make it attractive to drug traffickers for use as an adulterant in heroin and making counterfeit pills.



Although legitimate pharmaceutical products containing fentanyl can be prescribed by a doctor for severe pain, the vast majority of overdose deaths are due to the use of illicit fentanyl that is produced in clandestine labs in China and Mexico.

Illicit fentanyl is typically found in powder form and can be easily mixed with other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or meth.

It is also commonly pressed into counterfeit pills with the same color, shape, and markings as legitimate oxycodone and Xanax pills. Users of counterfeit pills are often unaware that they are consuming fentanyl which greatly increases their risk of overdose and death.

Common routes of administration include:



Intravenous (injection)



Inhalation (smoking)



Ingestion (swallowing)

Effects include a powerful, short lasting high with feelings of euphoria and depressed breathing and blood pressure, with potential for nausea, fainting, seizures, overdose, and death to occur.

With a lethal dose of about 2 mg, fentanyl is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin.

To put that into perspective, an amount equal to a small packet of sugar would contain approximately 500 lethal doses.



Through cross-contamination, fentanyl can be unintentionally mixed with other drugs like cocaine and meth by dealers that handle different drugs on the same equipment.

Street names for illicit fentanyl include:

- China White
- Dope
- Fent
- Fetty
- Diablo
- Fentinol
- Fent-dope

Dealers commonly market heroin-fentanyl mixtures or pure fentanyl in glassine stamp bags branded with names such as:

- Dance Fever
- Great Bear
- Poison
- Goodfellas
- He-Man
- Tango & Cash

Fentanyl Analogs

Fentanyl analogs such as acetylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, and carfentanil are compounds that are very similar in chemical structure to fentanyl that are often marketed and sold as heroin or fentanyl. They are a serious threat because they require specialized toxicology to detect and can be much more potent than fentanyl itself. For example, carfentanil, the strongest fentanyl analog detected in the U.S., is estimated to be 10,000 times more potent than morphine.

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