

FENTANYL AND OPIOID OVERDOSE TOOLKIT



Fentanyl is a strong synthetic opioid that is now the most common drug involved in drug-related overdose deaths. There are two categories of fentanyl: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF). Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid used as pain medication prescribed by doctors. It is 50-100 times stronger than morphine. IMF is created and distributed through illegal drug markets. IMF is added to other drugs, which makes these drugs cheaper and causes the drugs to become more dangerous, powerful, and addictive. Fentanyl is extremely deadly, even in small doses. Misuse of prescription fentanyl and use of IMF puts someone at a higher risk of experiencing a drug overdose.

Illicitly manufactured (IMF) fentanyl is typically smuggled into the United States by Mexican drug cartels. Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States since 2019 and continues to rise yearly. IMF is available on the drug market in different forms, including liquid, pills, nasal spray, eye drops and powder. Powdered fentanyl looks like many other drugs. It is commonly mixed with heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine and made into pills that resemble other prescription opioids.

Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see, taste, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl.



The Chocolate Chip Cookie Effect

When drugs are made illegally in illegal labs, there is no quality control, substance containment, or FDA approval. So that means that the powder mixture does not evenly distribute the fentanyl, and some parts of the pill may have lots of fentanyl while others may not. Therefore, taking pills not prescribed by a doctor can be dangerous. DEA laboratory testing in 2022 revealed that six out of ten fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills contained a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl.

This is an increase from the DEA's announcement in 2021 that four out of ten fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills contain a potentially deadly dose. In 2022, DEA seized more than double the amount of fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills it seized in 2021. DEA also seized nearly 131,000 pounds of methamphetamine, more than 4,300 pounds of heroin, and over 444,000 pounds of cocaine.



According to the CDC, 107,375 people in the United States died of drug overdoses and drug poisonings in the 12 months ending in January 2022. A staggering 67 percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Some of these deaths were attributed to fentanyl mixed with other illicit drugs like cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin, with many users unaware they were taking fentanyl. Only two milligrams of fentanyl are considered a potentially lethal dose; it's particularly dangerous for someone who does not have a tolerance to opioids.

People will experience a variety of symptoms when they are experiencing an overdose, such as small pupils, slow, weak, or no breathing, clammy or cold skin, discolored skin, cannot be woken up, and discolored skin or nails.

In 2021, methamphetamine posed the greatest threat in the Kansas City region, with heroin and synthetic opioids ranking second. Synthetic drugs are causing an overdose crisis in the Kansas City metro area.

Rainbow fentanyl is used to target young adults. Since August 2022, law enforcement has seized pills in 26 states. "Rainbow fentanyl—fentanyl pills and powder that come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes—is a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction amongst kids and young adults," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. Brightly colored fentanyl is being seized in multiple forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that resembles sidewalk chalk. Despite claims that certain colors may be more potent than others, there is no indication through DEA's laboratory testing that this is the case. Every color, shape, and size of fentanyl should be considered extremely dangerous.

More than 932,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose. In 2020, 91,799 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States. The age-adjusted rate of overdose deaths increased by 31% from 2019 (21.6 per 100,000) to 2020 (28.3 per 100,000) According to the CDC, 75% of nearly 92,000 drug overdose deaths in 2020 involved an opioid.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 600 overdose deaths in Kansas were reported in the year before September 2021, an increase of 48.7%.



In 2022 The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) held the first National Fentanyl Awareness Day to educate individuals about fentanyl dangers and threats that it poses. National Fentanyl Awareness Day 2023 will be held on May 10th.

The DEA announced the seizure of over 379 million deadly doses of fentanyl in 2022. It was reported that there were enough deadly doses of fentanyl found to theoretically kill every American.

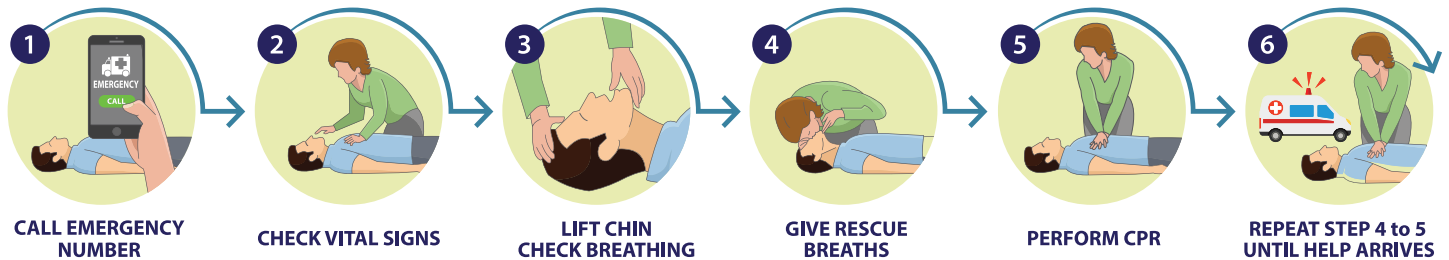
What is Naloxone?

It is an opioid overdose reversal medication. It is the same as Narcan and Kloxxado. It is safe to use on someone who is not on an opioid and will not hurt anyone that is not currently not using an opioid. It is safe to use on kids, even dogs. Naloxone works within 1-3 minutes and can last from 30-90 minutes. The lifespan for naloxone is two to three years. Proper storage of naloxone is important. Do not keep it in extreme heat or freezing temperatures because that can cause the medication to be less effective. It is important to note that an expired kit is more effective than not.

When someone is experiencing an opioid overdose, there are steps you can take to respond to the overdose. You want to **STIMULATE** the victim with a sternal rub. If you get no response, call 911. After calling 911 and suspecting the person is overdosing, administer naloxone. If the person reacts to the naloxone and wakes up, continue waiting for EMS. If they do not wake up after the first dose, perform CPR. After 3-5 minutes and receiving no response, administer another dose of naloxone and continue CPR. When the person is breathing again, place them in the recovery position on the left side of their body.



FIRST AID CPR



Where to get Naloxone/Narcan?

- DCCCA can provide free naloxone to community members.
<https://www.dccca.org/naloxone-program/>
- Naloxone can be prescribed to anyone. The cost varies depending on your insurance.
- Participating pharmacies can provide naloxone upon request without a doctor's prescription:
<https://pharmacy.ks.gov/k-tracs/consumers/prevent-overdose/prevent-opioid-overdose>

Resources for substance abuse treatment:

- Call SAMHSA's National Helpline 1-800-662-HELP or visit the SAMSHA's Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator found here: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>
- Obtain naloxone/Narcan to have in case of a suspected overdose.
- There are inpatient and outpatient treatment options available in Kansas.
 - SUD hotline 866-645-8216
 - <https://www.findtreatment.gov>
 - <https://www.DCCCA.org>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov>

Resources to visit for more information:

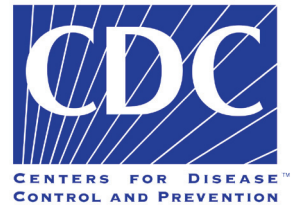
Center for Disease Control (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/resources/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html>



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

<https://www.dea.gov/engage/operation-engage-kansascity>

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

<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>

<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/12/20/drug-enforcement-administration-announces-seizure-over-379-million-deadly>

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Fentanyl-2020_0.pdf



SAMHSA

<https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma18-4742.pdf>

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



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

<https://www.hhs.gov/overdose-prevention/>



Harm Reduction

<https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/>

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIH)



<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates> with graphs from 1999-2020

National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse

https://ncapda.org/naloxone/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA5NSdBhDfARIsALzs2EA0Mv6ur5N92V-vZssJMgldg6yhXTvA-5Y2KGiQTuHAngqOdP1FzPAaAovVEALw_wcB



Next Distro

<https://www.nextdistro.org/resources>



Learn. Lock. Lead.

<https://knowmoreks.org/learnlocklead-2021/>



The Kansas Prevention Collaborative and DCCCA have created a variety of free toolkits, e-learning modules, webinars, YouTube videos and other resources that are available to all communities and coalitions working with prevention. Many of these resources are available in both English and Spanish. Follow any of these links to access this toolkit and other prevention resources:

<http://www.kansaspreventioncollaborative.org>

<http://www.dccca.org/prevention-resources>

<https://ispri.ng/mxVY1>

Or scan here:

