

# FENTANYL: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## WHAT IS FENTANYL?

There are two types of fentanyl: **pharmaceutical fentanyl** and **illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF)**. Both types are considered synthetic opioids. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer. Distributed through illegal drug markets, IMF is available in the following forms: as a powder, dropped on blotter paper like small candies, in eye droppers or nasal sprays, or made into pills that look like real prescription opioids.

## MOST CURRENT FENTANYL-RELATED OVERDOSES ARE LINKED TO IMF.

From 2019 to 2021, the number of fentanyl overdose deaths in Oklahoma increased **500%**.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to

**50x** **100x**

stronger than heroin

stronger than morphine

## WHY IS FENTANYL DANGEROUS?

- Increased risk of overdose due to potency. Even in small doses, **it can be deadly.**
- Often added to other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive.
- Cannot be detected by sight, taste, smell, or touch.
- People who use drugs are often unaware that their drugs are laced or cut with fentanyl.

## STREET NAMES FOR IMF INCLUDE:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| ■ Apache      | ■ Tango & Cash |
| ■ Dance Fever | ■ China Girl   |
| ■ Friend      | ■ China Town   |
| ■ Goodfellas  | ■ China White  |
| ■ Jackpot     | ■ Great Bear   |
| ■ Murder 8    | ■ He-Man       |

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A FENTANYL OVERDOSE?

Like other opioid drugs, signs of a fentanyl overdose include:

- Small, constricted "pinpoint" pupils
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

## HOW DO I RESPOND IF I THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING?

1. **Call 911 immediately\***
2. Give naloxone, if available.
3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
4. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
5. Stay with the person until emergency workers arrive.

\*A Good Samaritan law (63 O.S. § 2-413.1) provides immunity, under certain circumstances, to individuals seeking medical attention for someone who has overdosed.

## HOW ARE KIDS GETTING FENTANYL?

Teens have the easiest access to drugs through purchases on the internet, dark web drug markets, and social media. They may also get drugs from more traditional avenues such as friends, street dealers, parties, or stealing another person's legitimate prescription.

## CAN FENTANYL BE ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN BY TOUCHING IT?

Illicit fentanyl comes in powder or solid form, and must have direct contact with mucous membranes or the bloodstream via snorting, smoking, or injection to cause an overdose. Fentanyl powder is not readily absorbed through the skin and would take massive amounts over time.

## TREATMENT AND RECOVERY.

Fentanyl addiction is treatable. To find help, call 211.

## TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS



Speak honestly with your kids about choices and risky behaviors.



Be clear and consistent about family rules, boundaries, and guidelines.



Listen to what they have to say, respect their opinions, and do not be judgmental.



Encourage positive friendships and encourage them to find things that interest them.



Educate them about online safety and healthy social media use.



Create a safe space for them to ask questions. Never make them feel wrong for wanting to know more about drugs.



Correct wrong beliefs they may have with factual information. Help them learn, don't just lecture.



Stay educated on current drug trends so you can teach your children.

**Being a caregiver is hard.** For support and resources, visit the OK Warmline ([okwarmline.org](http://okwarmline.org)), OKCares ([okcares.org](http://okcares.org)), or DHS ([oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/cap/fcs](http://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/cap/fcs)).



OKLAHOMA  
State Department  
of Health

Learn more: [oklahoma.gov/health/overdose](http://oklahoma.gov/health/overdose) | 405.426.8440

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