

Understanding the Dangers of Fentanyl



More than 106,000 Americans have died from a drug overdose in the past 12 months, according to estimates from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Use of street drugs that include fentanyl has been a major factor in the surge in overdose deaths in recent years.

Facts to Know about Fentanyl

- ✓ Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin.
- ✓ Using a more powerful opioid can increase the likelihood of overdosing.
- ✓ Street drugs like heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine often include fentanyl to increase effects.
- ✓ Because you can't see, taste or smell fentanyl, people may be unaware they are using it.
- ✓ Test strips are available to identify if fentanyl is present in a drug.
- ✓ Naloxone is a medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose.

If you are struggling with substance use, it's important to know that addiction is a treatable disease and it's okay to reach out for help. Asking a loved one or a healthcare provider for help in finding support and treatment options can be the first step toward recovery.

For immediate support, call or text 9-8-8. For a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1.