

FENTANYL



The buzz about a drug - smart users don't want to take?

Actually, your parents don't want you doing any drugs? And loads of people have trouble with alcohol and tobacco! So why is it, that we take things we know are bad for us? And what is so dark about fentanyl?? Hopefully the next few pages will enlighten you.

First off, it's not how smart you are, it is how many hooks and barbs the drug you are using has. And how much damage the drug can do to you!

Fentanyl is one of the strongest opiate drugs on the market. It is not a long-lasting drug so it is often used for surgery recovery and for terminal cancer patients with acute pain.

Most forms of taking fentanyl are slow release: lollipops, patches & films are common. This slows the powerful drug from overwhelming a patients body. Not exactly what a drug user/addict wants.

Fentanyl is 100X more powerful than morphine

Everyone has heard the warning, And you would think "Who is going to take something that strong, that dangerous, that it is killing people? Fact is - most times drug users don't know they are taking it. You can't see it, smell it or taste it. There are no tests to tell if it is present.

And because it is so powerful, drug makers, not the pharmaceutical sterile machine laboratory guys - the scummy dropouts putting dirty chemicals together in abandoned garages use it to cut down costs and still deliver a high to users.



Remember we said it was powerful and fast acting - well the edge leading up to a good high and the drop off to an overdose and death is so small that it is hard to achieve in 'a garage, by hand'. But it isn't a street drug dealers big concern. Just get your money and get out.

As with any opiate, the main symptoms of fentanyl abuse are euphoria, drowsiness, lethargy and mellowness. Fentanyl very quickly creates a tolerance to high doses, so a dose that is adequate for the intended high one week will probably not create that intended high even a few days later.

Everyone has heard the warning, There are many other signs and symptoms of using fentanyl, either medically or illicitly, that are not desirable. **These include:**

- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Dry mouth
- Retention of urine
- Suppression of breathing
- Severe constipation
- Itching or hives
- Nausea and vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Headache
- Difficulty seeing
- Depression
- Hallucinations
- Bad dreams
- Difficulty sleeping
- Sweating
- Shaking
- Swollen extremities



Addiction **IS** a Symptom of Fentanyl Abuse

In most cases, addiction is accompanied by a deterioration in personal integrity. It takes many unethical or criminal acts to maintain an addiction over time-either expenditure of large amounts of personal money or thefts, prescription fraud, doctor-shopping or other crimes, to get the drugs that are needed. A fentanyl addict normally has secrets from most or all of the people they encounter regularly. If the thefts are from a workplace, as often happens, they will be living a secret life while at work. Hospitals, pharmacies and nursing homes are often the sites of fentanyl theft by desperate employees.

Different people become addicted at different rates. Some addicts try to prevent addiction by letting time pass between usages of strong opiates and others feel compelled to use the drug continuously once they start, which leads them straight into addiction. Those coming off heavy fentanyl abuse will often be weaned down to a lower level before going through withdrawal, as unsupported withdrawal from strong opiates can be brutal.

While we advise against using illicit drugs, people who do choose to use should be sure to:

- never use alone
- start with a small amount
- not mix substances, including alcohol, as it increases risk of overdose
- call 911 right away if they think some one is overdosing
- make a plan and know how to respond in case of an overdose
- use where help is easily available
- be prepared to give breaths and or administer naloxone (Narcan) until help arrives



Fake oxycodone pills
actually they are fentanyl

Early signs of a fentanyl overdose include:

- severe sleepiness
- slow heartbeat
- slow, shallow breathing or snoring
- trouble breathing
- cold, clammy skin
- trouble walking or talking

**IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE YOU...
UNTIL IT IS.**

Fentanyl may be hiding in the
drugs you're using.

A photograph of a person's feet in a morgue setting. The feet are positioned on a white surface, and a tag is attached to the right foot. The tag has the following text: "Time of Death: 12:00", "Cause of Death: Overdose: Fentanyl, unknown dose, taken with other drugs". The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the feet and the tag.