

STAY SAFE: KNOW THE FACTS OF THE FENTANYL EPIDEMIC

Drug dealers are using low-cost fentanyl to boost the potency of street drugs and counterfeit prescription drugs. Because you cannot see, taste or smell fentanyl, a synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin, people are blindsided by it. More than 2,300 Texans lost their lives to fentanyl in 2023* – more than five fatal overdoses every day. Partial data for 2024 indicates hundreds continue to lose their lives to drug overdoses and fentanyl poisonings.



WHAT TO KNOW:

- One pill can kill. A tiny amount of fentanyl can be fatal. Fentanyl has been found in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills.
- People who took a fake prescription pill, made to mimic a Percocet, Adderall or Vicodin pill, are being poisoned by traces of fentanyl in those illicit drugs.
- Test strips are the only way to detect fentanyl. They are inexpensive but not foolproof. They might not detect fentanyl-like drugs like carfentanil.
- Naloxone is a lifesaver. If you see someone has overdosed or is not responsive, call for help! Authorities can provide Naloxone, which can reverse an overdose if caught in time.

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

- Small, constricted pinpoint pupils
- Face is very pale and may be cold to touch
- Body has gone limp
- Fingernails or lips may be bluish
- Vomiting or choking noises
- Cannot be awakened or speak
- Breathing or heartbeat is slow or stops



HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

- Call 911 immediately
- Try to wake or keep the person up
- Give naloxone if it's available
- Begin rescue breathing or CPR
- Turn the person on their side to prevent choking
- Stay with the person until emergency responders arrive



TJJD offers online trainings on fentanyl awareness. Find those at the TJJD Training Academy page at our website or scan the QR code.

<https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/operations/juvenile-justice-training-academy/>



*According to preliminary data by the Texas Department of State Health Services.