

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid, used medically to treat severe pain, but also manufactured illegally by drug cartels. It is pressed into counterfeit pills and mixed with heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs. A tiny amount, as little as **2 milligrams** (a few grains of salt) can be deadly.

FENTANYL IS UNDETECTABLE IN COUNTERFEIT PILLS

You can't see it, smell it, or taste it when mixed or pressed into counterfeit pills. These pills are made to look like legitimate prescription medications such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).

CRIMINAL DRUG NETWORKS ARE TARGETING AMERICANS

Drug cartels use social media and other online platforms to target Americans, making access to a deadly substance just a few clicks away.

DEADLY DOSES SEIZED

In 2025, DEA seized more than 47 million pills and nearly 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder, removing over 369 million deadly doses as of January 2026.

[DEA.GOV/FENTANYLFREE](https://www.dea.gov/fentanylfree)

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- Encourage open and honest communication and express your concern for their safety
- Explain that no pill found on social media is safe, and fentanyl has been found in most kinds of illegal drugs
- Create an “exit plan” to help children know what to do if they feel pressured to take a pill or use drugs

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

If you or someone you know needs help, contact the 988 Lifeline. In an emergency, call 911.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE

JOIN THE FIGHT
TO MAKE AMERICA
FENTANYL FREE

Scan the QR code to visit [DEA.gov/FentanylFree](https://www.dea.gov/fentanylfree) for additional information and resources.

