

FENTANYL



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WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Legal fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug used by hospitals and doctors as a pain reliever and anesthetic. It is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. Illegal fentanyl is produced in clandestine laboratories and widely mixed with other illegal drugs and used in counterfeit pills which mimic the appearance of authentic pill and tablet medication.

STREET NAMES

Apache, Blues, China Girl, China Town, China White, Dance Fever, Dirty 30s, Freddie, Fent/Fenty, Goodfellas, Jackpot, M-30s, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Illegal fentanyl can be in a white powder form but is undetectable when it is mixed with other drugs or pressed into counterfeit pills.



Counterfeit Oxycodone Pills

HOW IS IT USED?

Although it can be sold alone, illicitly produced fentanyl is usually clandestinely mixed during the production of other illegal drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, MDMA and other substances, and has been identified in counterfeit pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as Oxycodone, Xanax and Adderall. Fentanyl can be injected, snorted/sniffed, smoked, taken orally by pill or tablet, and spiked onto blotter paper. Pharmaceutical fentanyl patches are misused by removing its gel contents and



A lethal dose of fentanyl

then injecting or ingesting these contents. Patches have also been frozen, cut into pieces, and placed under the tongue or in the cheek cavity.

EFFECTS ON THE BODY

Fentanyl is highly addictive, both physically and psychologically. Fentanyl, like other commonly used opioid analgesics (e.g., morphine), produces effects such as relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, pupillary constriction, and respiratory depression.

OVERDOSE EFFECTS

As little as 2 mg of fentanyl (a few grains of salt) can be a lethal dose. Overdose may result in stupor, changes in pupillary size, cold and clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death. The presence of a trio of symptoms such as coma, pinpoint pupils, and respiratory depression is strongly suggestive of fentanyl poisoning.

SAVE A LIFE

Opioid overdoses/poisonings can be reversed. If you encounter a person who shows signs of an overdose always call 911 and administer naloxone if available.

FOR DRUG USE PREVENTION INFORMATION, VISIT DEA'S WEBSITES:

For parents, caregivers, and educators
GetSmartAboutDrugs.com
For teens
JustThinkTwice.com

For college and university campuses
CampusDrugPrevention.gov