

# OPIOIDS AND FENTANYL FACT SHEET

## Fentanyl Facts

Fentanyl is an incredibly strong, man-made painkiller approved by the FDA for pain relief and anesthesia. It is about 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin. The presence of fentanyl in many fake prescription pills has contributed to rapidly increasing rates of overdose deaths.

### OVERVIEW

Fentanyl is a tasteless, odorless substance that can be added to fake tablets or mixed with other drugs like heroin or cocaine, often without the user knowing it's there. According to DEA lab testing, seven out of ten fentanyl-laced pills contain a potentially lethal dose of the drug.

An overdose of fentanyl can cause someone to become very sleepy, have small pupils, cold and clammy skin, skin discoloration, slip into a coma, or have trouble breathing, which can lead to death. If a person shows signs of a coma, pinpoint pupils, and slowed breathing, they might have been poisoned by an opioid.

### DANGERS OF USE

Fentanyl, similar to other common opioid painkillers, can cause temporary feelings of relaxation or happiness, short-term pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness or dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, small pupils, and trouble breathing.



## Opioid Facts

Opioids include painkillers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, oxycontin, codeine, and morphine. Opioids are highly addictive and can often lead to using other more dangerous drugs.

### OVERVIEW

While some pills are medically prescribed for specific health reasons, abuse of prescription drugs can happen due to their availability in a student's home or the home of a family member. Abuse of these pills means taking a medication in a dose other than prescribed, taking someone else's prescription, even for a legitimate medical complaint such as pain, or taking a medication to feel a sense of euphoria (i.e., to get high).

### DANGERS OF USE

One single dose of an opioid can cause respiratory failure and death. Mixing these drugs with alcohol increases these risks.

