

Opioid Awareness Fentanyl

FAST FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

- ✓ Fentanyl is a strong synthetic opioid and is often described as 80-100 times stronger than morphine, or about **50 times stronger than heroin**. This makes it riskier and more likely to cause an overdose.
- ✓ Increased use of illicit fentanyl is driving a significant increase in overdose deaths, worsening the existing opioid crisis. Lack of accessible resources and the stigma often experienced by people who use drugs makes addressing this crisis more difficult.
- ✓ Illicit fentanyl sold on the street comes in the form of pressed pills that look like prescription medications, sometimes colored blue, or in the form of a white, gray, or tan powder. These pills and powders can be swallowed, smoked, injected, or snorted. Fentanyl can also be found in other drugs, such as meth, cocaine, heroin, or benzodiazepines like Xanax.
- ✓ Fentanyl is **not** “naloxone resistant.”

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Fentanyl is an opioid and will respond to naloxone if someone is overdosing. When it appears that someone is overdosing but is not responding to naloxone, it may be because:

- the naloxone needs more time to take effect (wait 2-3 mins before administering more naloxone)
- they need more than one dose of naloxone (wait 2-3 minutes between doses)
- the naloxone was administered after the person had been without oxygen for too long

STAY VIGILANT AND ASSUME RISK

Fentanyl can also be mixed with other drugs. Samples of black tar heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, and counterfeit or pressed pills have tested positive for fentanyl.

Any drug or medication purchased illegally or given to you outside of a medical setting is unpredictable and inconsistent. **Assume there is a risk of overdosing, no matter what drug you're using.** If you are going to use, talk to a medical provider or community service provider about harm reduction strategies that may be most appropriate for you.

Know the signs of an overdose. **Always carry naloxone and be prepared to respond to an overdose.** Washington residents can get naloxone **for free** from the [People's Harm Reduction Alliance](#).



Scan this QR code to order free naloxone from the People's Harm Reduction Alliance

SNOHOMISH OVERDOSE PREVENTION

A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO STOP
SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC



Snohomish County