

Together we can fight the fentanyl crisis.

What You Should Know About Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid. Prescription fentanyl is safe when taken as prescribed by a doctor to treat severe pain. However, illicitly manufactured fentanyl is also distributed through illegal drug markets.

Illegally manufactured fentanyl is often added to other substances like counterfeit (fake) pills, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. Even in small doses, fentanyl exposure can cause a fatal overdose. Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids – including fentanyl. Naloxone is available at many pharmacies in Nebraska for free without a prescription.

Signs of overdose:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Face is extremely pale and/or feels cold or clammy to the touch
- Body goes limp • Fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color
- Vomiting or making gurgling noises
- Cannot be awakened or unable to speak
- Breathing or heartbeat slows or stops

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

1. Call 911 right away
2. Try to wake the person up
3. Give naloxone, if available
4. Begin rescue breathing or CPR
5. Turn the person on their side to prevent choking
6. Stay with the person until emergency services arrive

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

More than 150 people die every day in the U.S. from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl