

Alaska Health Warning

Illicit fentanyl is added to many substances and comes in a variety of forms, including multi-colored chunks and pills that look like candy.



Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Even a tiny amount of fentanyl can kill.

The powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl is responsible for a growing share of overdose deaths. Six out of every 10 overdose deaths nationally and in Alaska involve fentanyl.

Pharmaceutical fentanyl may be prescribed by doctors in medical settings to control pain. If fentanyl is prescribed to you, take this medication ONLY as prescribed. Never share prescription drugs with others.

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is sold in illegal markets for its potent, heroin-like effects. It is very powerful, addictive and can be deadly. An amount weighing as little as two milligrams (less than the weight of a grain of rice) can cause an overdose, depending on a person's size, tolerance and past usage.

With fentanyl so prevalent in the U.S. drug supply, Alaskans should be aware that any drug not directly prescribed to them could be deadly.

What does fentanyl look like? Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is found in a wide variety of forms, including pills, powder, chunks or rocks, and liquids, and is commonly mixed with other illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine or counterfeit pills made to look like prescription drugs. It can be smoked, injected, or ingested. In liquid form, it can be found in nasal sprays, eye drops, and dropped onto paper or small candies.

Rainbow fentanyl

A new and particularly troubling form is rainbow-colored fentanyl. It comes in many forms including pills that look like candy and may be attractive to youth.



Example of red/orange colored fentanyl seized in Georgia?



M-30s

Called "M-30s," "blues," or "dirty 30's," these fake pills are usually blue but can be white, and are usually stamped to look like real oxycodone pills you would get from a pharmacist.



Mixed with stimulants

Fentanyl can be mixed with stimulants including methamphetamine and cocaine. These drugs will look the same, hiding the presence of fentanyl that has been mixed in.



Fentanyl mixed with cocaine.



Fentanyl can be in methamphetamine.



Heroin and fentanyl are commonly mixed.

What Alaskans can do to save a life

Talk to your loved ones about the dangers of opioids and especially fentanyl.

- Even one pill can be dangerous and potentially fatal. A very small amount of fentanyl can cause an overdose.
- Do not accept any pills offered by anyone other than your doctor.
- Every pill is different. Even if one pill seems safe, another pill from the same batch may contain fentanyl.
- Provide easy access to naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. Make sure someone nearby can administer it if needed.



On the tip of this pencil is a lethal amount of fentanyl.

Help keep Alaskans safe. Update your first aid kit by adding naloxone (to reverse an overdose) and test strips (to detect fentanyl).

- If you are an individual who wants naloxone or fentanyl test strips for yourself or a loved one, please contact one of our [Project Hope partners](#) or visit your local [Public Health Center](#).
- Naloxone may also be obtained by prescription. Talk to your health care provider if you would like a prescription.
- If you want to become a distributor of naloxone or you need a refill of your naloxone order, please email ProjectHope@alaska.gov.



These are lethal amounts of heroin and fentanyl for an average adult.

Recognize the signs of an overdose.

Too much of an opioid can cause breathing to become very slow or stop. Call for emergency medical attention if any of these signs appear:

- Failure to respond when spoken to
- Failure to wake up when prompted
- Slow or no breathing
- Tiny pupils (the center part of the eye)
- Fingernails or lips are turning blue or purple

Act fast to respond to an opioid overdose.

- Call 911 immediately.
- Administer naloxone if available.
- If the person has stopped breathing or if breathing is very weak, begin CPR (best performed by someone who has training).
- Try to keep the person awake.
- Roll them over on their side to prevent choking.
- Wait with them until emergency medical personnel arrive.

Learn the signs of an overdose.

You can stop a heroin or opioid overdose with naloxone nasal spray.

FACE BODY SLEEP

BREATHING HEART

Reverse an overdose. Save a life.

Get NALOXONE and keep it with you!

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