

FENTANYL: WHY IS IT SO DEADLY?

A highly dangerous drug that affects your body and life

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid:

- **100X stronger** than morphine
- Includes analogs like legal alfentanil, sufentanil, and remifentanil (used for pain management and anesthesia) and illicit acetylfentanyl, carfentanil (used in veterinary medicine for large animals), and furanylfentanyl.
- A tiny amount (~2mg, the size of a few grains of salt) can kill.
- Used medically for treating severe pain but often found illegally in
 - Powder forms
 - Fake pills (which look like OxyContin or Xanax)
 - Mixed with heroin, cocaine or meth

WHY IS FENTANYL OVERDOSE LETHAL?

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

- **Stops breathing in 4 minutes** - fentanyl slows or stops breathing faster than any other drugs
- Reduces how deeply you breathe, starving your body of oxygen
- Causes **65% less oxygen to the brain**, leading to brain damage

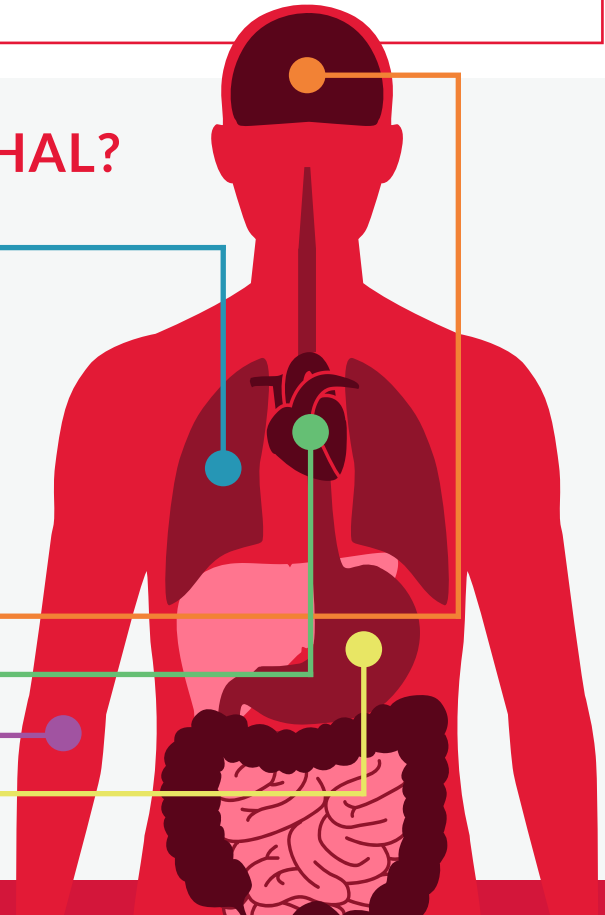
OTHER ORGANS AFFECTED BY FENTANYL

Brain: Memory loss, confusion, permanent damage from low oxygen

Heart: Slows heart rate, lowers blood pressure

Immune System: Weakens defenses, increases infections

Stomach: Causes severe constipation, nausea, weight loss



NARCAN THE LIFESAVER

Narcan (Naloxone) reverses fentanyl overdoses but:

- **More challenging** to reverse fentanyl compared to other opioids.
- May need multiple doses or higher amounts.
- Available over the counter at pharmacies.
- [Learn to use it - save a life!](#)

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Avoid unknown drugs or pills. Carry Narcan and know how to use it.

SEEK HELP

Call [1-800-662-HELP](tel:1-800-662-HELP)

Visit www.FindTreatment.gov for support.