



← **THIS IS A PENNY**

← **THIS IS AN  
OVERDOSE**

# Fentanyl

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TREATMENT & RECOVERY

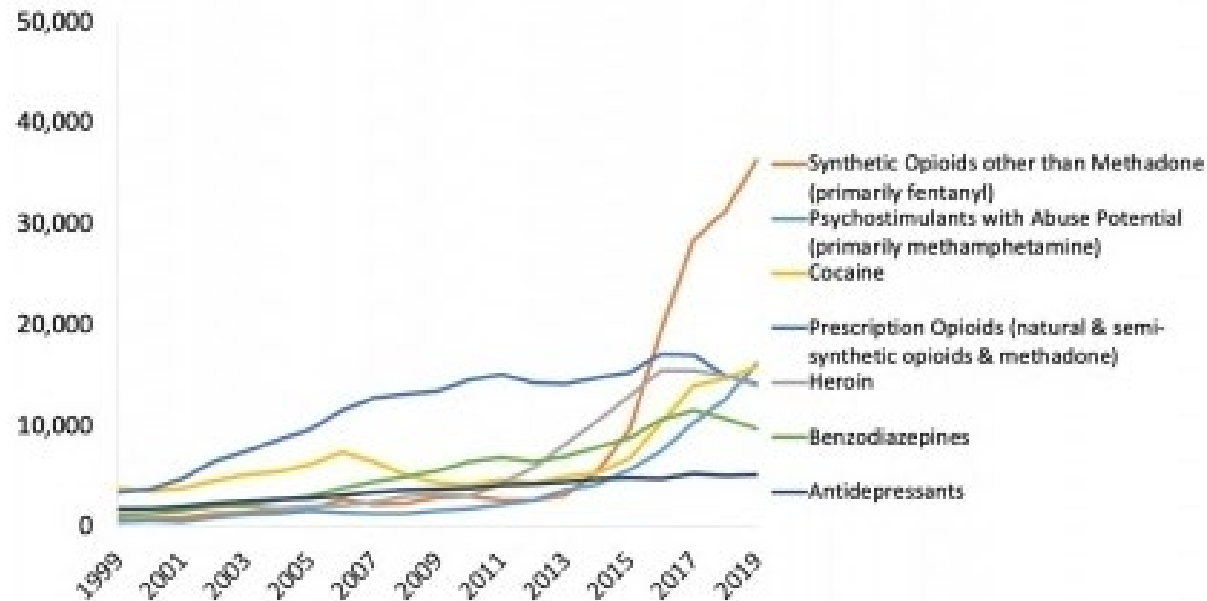
# Fentanyl: key characteristics

- ▶ 50 – 100 x more potent than heroin
- ▶ Fast onset
- ▶ Many chemical versions, “analogs”
- ▶ White powder that can be cut into other drugs, formed into pill



# Fentanyl: Poisoning Risk

**Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019**



\*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40-X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60-X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10-Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.



# Fentanyl: NOT causing 1<sup>st</sup> responder poisoning

“The only way to overdose is from injecting, snorting or some other way of ingesting it,” said Dr. Ryan Marino, medical director of toxicology and addiction medicine at University Hospitals in Cleveland. “You cannot overdose from secondhand contact.”

The New York Times

## *Video of Officer's Collapse After Handling Powder Draws Skepticism*

Medical experts said the video promoted a false narrative and confusion about fentanyl and ways it can lead to an overdose.



Deputy David Faiivae of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department collapsed on July 3 after being exposed to a substance believed to be fentanyl. San Diego County Sheriff's Department



By Isabella Grullón Paz

Published Aug. 7, 2021 Updated Aug. 31, 2021

# The market for Fentanyl

- ▶ Overwhelming supply available on the streets
- ▶ Very cheap, readily available
- ▶ Displacing heroin
- ▶ Cut into other drugs



# Fentanyl: Intentional Use

- ▶ SF study demonstrated shift from injecting heroin to smoking fentanyl because:
  - ▶ All that is available
  - ▶ No veins left
  - ▶ Don't want to inject
  - ▶ Fewer infections
  - ▶ No track marks
  - ▶ Pace use
  - ▶ Reduced OD risk
  - ▶ Reduced stigma
  - ▶ Less \$\$



Kral AH, et al. Transition from injecting opioids to smoking fentanyl in San Francisco, California. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* V 227, Oct 1, 2021

# Fentanyl: Patterns of Use

- ▶ Quick tolerance
  - ▶ Shorter interval between use
  - ▶ Intense withdrawal symptoms
  - ▶ Quickly escalating doses



# What we can do

- ▶ Narcan, narcan, narcan
  - ▶ May need multiple doses
  - ▶ Some users preferred injectable
- ▶ Whole new generation of opioid users
  - ▶ New techniques of engagement
  - ▶ Foils, Fentanyl test strips
    - Test strips don't detect all analogs
    - May be “too sensitive”





# Medications for Opioid Use

- ▶ They still work!
- ▶ Can be more challenging to get on, stay on
  - ▶ Hopelessness among users and providers
- ▶ May need higher than usual doses
  - ▶ Buprenorphine 32 mg
  - ▶ Methadone 200+ mg



# Jenny's Slides



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**IT ONLY  
TAKES  
THIS  
MUCH**



**TO LOSE IT ALL**

**FENTANYL**

**THE DEADLIEST HIGH**



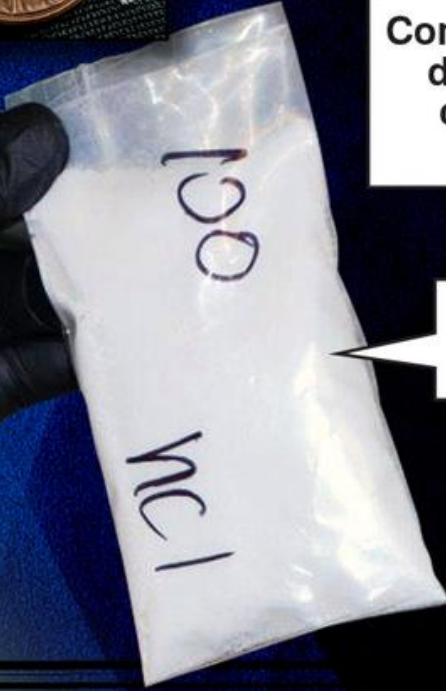
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# FENTANYL

The synthetic opioid that's roughly 50 times more potent than heroin



The size of a lethal dose of fentanyl compared to the size of a penny



Comparison of lethal doses of heroin, carfentanil and fentanyl

Fentanyl in powder form

Fentanyl in pill and crystal form



HEROIN

CARFENTANIL

FENTANYL



Photos courtesy the DEA