

Fentanyl and Overdose – Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths. Even in small doses, it can be deadly. Over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid—50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is relatively cheap to produce, increasing its presence in illicit street drugs. Dealers use it to improve their bottom line. Fentanyl is being pressed into pills that resemble OxyContin, Xanax, hydrocodone, and other sought-after drugs, as well as being cut into heroin and other street drugs. A loved one buying illicit drugs may think they know what they are getting, but there's a real risk of it containing fentanyl, which can cause breathing to stop completely, which can lead to death.

Symptoms of Fentanyl Overdose – A person that is overdosing on Fentanyl may exhibit the following signs and symptoms:

Gurgling sounds with Breathing	Foaming at the mouth
Cold and clammy skin	Blue colored lips and fingernails
Drowsiness	Dizziness
Confusion or strange behavior	Decreased heart rate
Nausea and vomiting	Reduced or loss of consciousness
Changes in pupillary size	Coma

The Most Important Thing to Know About Fentanyl

When fentanyl is mixed with heroin, cocaine, or other drugs, it is **never** mixed evenly. Powder from one side of a baggie may contain no fentanyl at all, yet powder from the other side may contain a fatal dose. It is therefore important to test every bit of the drug you intend to consume before you consume it.

Test strips are inexpensive and typically give results within 5 minutes, which can be the difference between life or death. Even if the test is negative, take

caution as test strips might not detect more potent fentanyl-like drugs, like-carfentanil. Ask your clinician for more information on fentanyl testing strips.