

# WHAT IS FENTANYL?



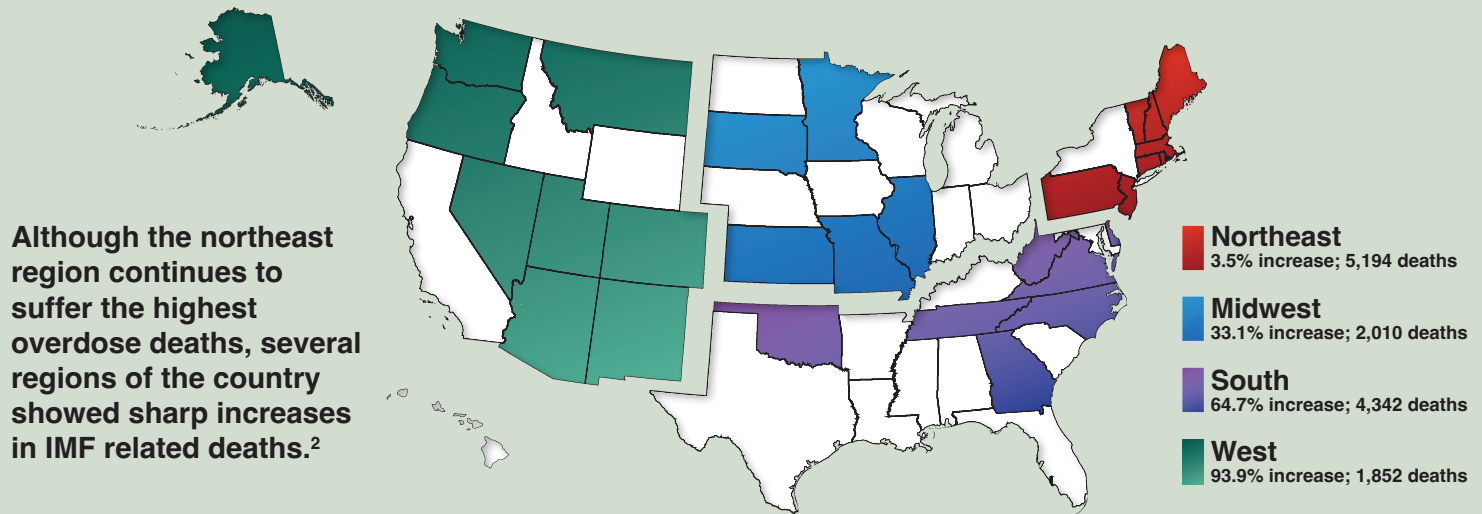
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is approximately **50X MORE POTENT THAN MORPHINE<sup>1</sup>**

Many people are exposed to fentanyl without knowledge while others use it intentionally because of its potency.

## OVERDOSE DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES EXCEEDED 100,000 IN A 12-MONTH PERIOD FOR THE FIRST TIME!

64% of these deaths involved synthetic opioids, mainly illicitly manufactured fentanyls (IMFs) (May 2020-April 2021)<sup>2</sup>

This is up from the more than 91,000 overdose deaths that occurred the previous year. (December 2019-December 2020)<sup>3</sup>



Although the northeast region continues to suffer the highest overdose deaths, several regions of the country showed sharp increases in IMF related deaths.<sup>2</sup>

\*In jurisdictions participating in State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS).

## FENTANYL IS IMPACTING MINORITIES AT AN ALARMING RATE!

Non-Hispanic Blacks had the highest mortality rate due to synthetic opioids other than methadone in 2020. In addition, from 2013-2020, the highest changes in this rate were for: non-Hispanic Blacks, Hispanics, non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>4</sup>



**47.6X**

Overdose deaths involving IMF rose 47.6-fold among Non-Hispanic Blacks.<sup>4</sup>



**35.7X**

Overdose deaths involving IMF rose 35.7-fold among Hispanics.<sup>4</sup>



**15.9X**

Overdose deaths involving IMF rose 15.9-fold among Non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>4</sup>



**YOU CAN HELP SAVE LIVES - CARRY NALOXONE!**



### AN OVERDOSE CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.

If you suspect an opioid overdose, administer NALOXONE and get emergency medical assistance right away. NALOXONE is a small, easy to carry medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose.



Looking for  
**NALOXONE?**

Visit: [www.naloxoneforall.org](http://www.naloxoneforall.org)

# HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE.



UNRESPONSIVE



IRREGULAR BREATHING



GRAY, BLUE, OR PALE SKIN COLOR



VERY SMALL PUPILS

## HOW TO REVERSE AN OVERDOSE.

Immediate action saves lives! Good Samaritan Laws protect you when you are trying to help someone in need.

### CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

Call 911, or direct someone nearby to call and say that you are supporting a suspected overdose.



### ADMINISTER NALOXONE

Even though the person is unresponsive, 1) Announce that you are going to give naloxone 2) Spray the naloxone in the person's nose.



### ADMINISTER CPR

Tilt the individual's head back to make sure their airways are open.

Apply chest compressions.



### GIVE NALOXONE AGAIN

Administer additional Naloxone if the person does not regain color or breathing, otherwise continue chest compressions, until help arrives.



### REMAIN CALM & COMFORTING

If the person is revived, remain calm and compassionate and encourage them to accept help or stay in a public place.



Harm reduction is all about keeping people safe in a practical way. **Simple tips are to:**

**CARRY NALOXONE | NEVER USE ALONE | GO SLOW | TEST YOUR DRUGS**

## TEST YOUR DRUGS FOR FENTANYL.



FENTANYL TEST STRIPS CAN BE USED TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF FENTANYL IN YOUR SUBSTANCE.<sup>5</sup>

Even if your drugs test negative for fentanyl, use caution and remember the harm reduction steps to take.

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6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Federal grantees may now use funds to purchase fentanyl test strips*. Retrieved September 14, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0407-Fentanyl-Test-Strips.html>
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