

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a **prescription drug with important medical uses** for severe pain when prescribed by healthcare providers, but it can also be **made and sold in the street drug market**.

Illicit fentanyl is made in makeshift labs and sold in various forms such as **powders, nasal sprays, or made into pills** that look like prescription drugs.

Fentanyl may be mixed with other drugs, like heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. When mixed with other drugs, you can't see it, smell it, or taste it. This is dangerous and can lead to an accidental overdose.



Center for
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Overdose & Naloxone

When people experience an opioid overdose, including fentanyl, they **first become sleepy**.

Then their breathing can slow, with choking sounds or a snore-like gurgling noise – **or stop** – which can lead to coma, permanent brain damage, or death.

The person's body **may become limp**, their **face pale or clammy**, and their **pulse weak or slow**.

Call 911 right away if you suspect someone has overdosed so they can receive immediate medical attention.



If you have Naloxone, use it.

Naloxone is a medicine that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose, including fentanyl, when given right away.

Because fentanyl is stronger than other opioid drugs, it might require multiple doses of Naloxone.