

# FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

Knowledge and Tools to Save Lives



Fentanyl is a man-made opioid that's many times stronger than morphine or heroin. Because it is so strong and so addictive, it's being added to heroin, fake prescription pills, even stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine. The result is huge increases in overdoses, and sadly, more Tennesseans than ever dying. These deaths are preventable with knowledge and tools.

## FENTANYL IS

**50** TIMES STRONGER  
THAN HEROIN  
**100** TIMES STRONGER  
THAN MORPINE

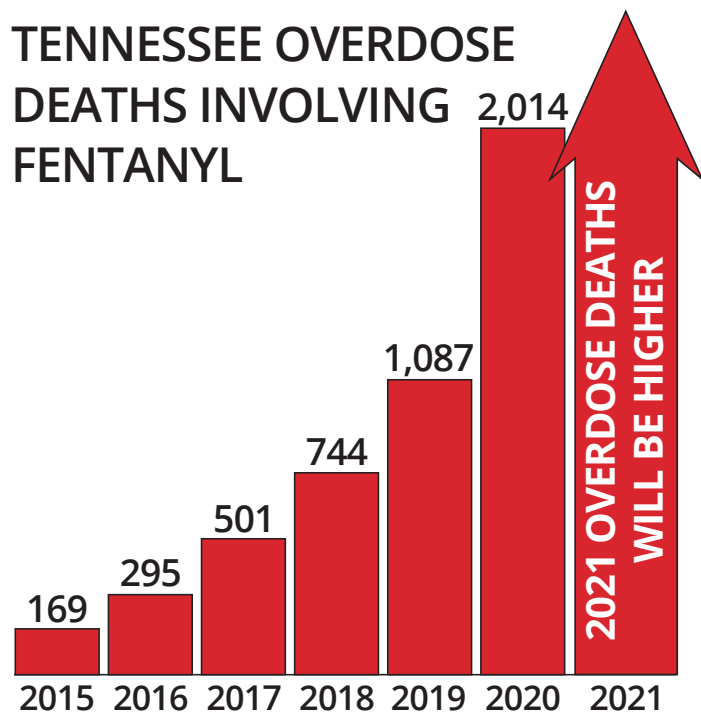
## HISTORY AND LEGAL USAGE

CREATED IN 1959. FENTANYL IS USED SAFELY DURING SURGERY OR TO TREAT CANCER PATIENTS. WHEN USED AS DIRECTED BY A DOCTOR, FENTANYL IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

## COMMON ILLICIT FORMS

ILLICIT FENTANYL IS SMUGGLED IN POWDER FORM. IT'S MIXED INTO SUBSTANCES INCLUDING HEROIN, COCAINE, METH, AND PRESSED INTO FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS.

## TENNESSEE OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING FENTANYL



TN Dept. of Health data shows illicit fentanyl is driving the overall increase in overdose deaths.

## FENTANYL AND OVERDOSE

Because fentanyl is so strong, people who make illicit (illegal) drugs use fentanyl to make their drugs cheaper and more powerful. They do not have the special equipment that spread out the chemicals evenly. Each pill or powder is not the same. It does not take a lot of fentanyl to cause an overdose, especially for someone who does not usually use opioids.



Authentic Oxycodone 30 MG Tablets



Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

### Can you spot the difference?

Fentanyl has been found in heroin, cocaine, meth and pressed into fake prescription pills. While there are lots of stories of fentanyl found in vapes, there are very few cases in the US when a lab tested and confirmed that fentanyl was present.

TN

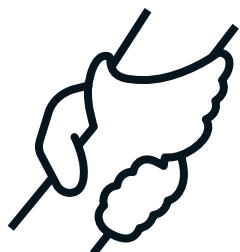
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**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

[TN.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions)

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Overdoses happen when too many opioids attach to receptors in the brain and cause you to stop breathing. You can not overdose on fentanyl just by touching it. It has to get into your blood to get to your brain. If you think fentanyl may be present, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth so it cannot get into your bloodstream and travel to your brain. Wash your hands with soap and water. Do not use hand sanitizer. It does not remove the substance from your hands.

You can save a life by responding to an opioid overdose with naloxone!

**1 CALL  
911**  
Immediately

**2** Give the  
person  
**NALOXONE**  
if you have it.

**3** Try to  
keep the  
person  
**AWAKE AND  
BREATHING.**

**4** Prevent  
Choking:  
Lay the person  
**ON THEIR  
SIDE.**

**5 STAY  
WITH  
THE PERSON**  
until help  
arrives.

## FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

You can't tell if a drug has fentanyl in it by smelling, tasting, or looking at it. Fentanyl test strips are the best way to find out if fentanyl is in the substance. Test strips help prevent overdose and death, and they can lead to changes in a person's drug use. Engaging people, promoting health, and meeting people where they are has been proven to help people see their self-worth and seek recovery.

## SAVE A LIFE WITH NALOXONE



Naloxone is a medication that reverses opioid overdose so a person can breathe until EMS arrives. It comes in several forms including nasal sprays and injectable liquids. You can get naloxone from a pharmacy without a prescription. Many insurances including TennCare cover naloxone at a minimal cost. **Remember: the only way to misuse naloxone is to not use it!**

**TN  
REDLINE**  
1.800.889.9789  
**CALL OR TEXT**

Free and Confidential Referrals to  
Addiction Treatment and Other Services

**STATEWIDE  
CRISIS LINE**  
HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS  
**855-CRISIS-1** [TN.gov/CrisisLine](https://www.tn.gov/CrisisLine)



Contact your local  
ROPS to schedule  
a training or get  
more info. Scan  
the code for  
details.

**TN** Department of  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

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