

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a fast-acting synthetic opioid that is 30 to 50 times stronger than heroin.

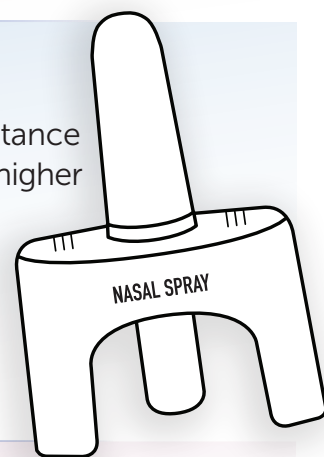
Carry naloxone. Naloxone can reverse an overdose from heroin and other opioids, including fentanyl.

Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed for severe pain and end-of-life care. Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl is produced illegally and has been found in cocaine, heroin, ketamine and methamphetamine supplies in New York City. It has also been found in counterfeit benzodiazepines (such as Xanax or Klonopin) and opioid painkillers (such as OxyContin or Vicodin) bought on the street and online. Fentanyl cannot be identified by sight, taste or smell.

Fentanyl Overdose

Fentanyl is stronger and faster-acting than other opioids. Using fentanyl or a substance that contains fentanyl increases the risk of overdose. The risk of overdose is even higher if fentanyl is present in a non-opioid drug (such as cocaine) and the person taking it does not usually use opioids.

Fentanyl overdoses require immediate medical attention. If you witness an overdose, call **911** and administer naloxone, a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.



Signs of an opioid overdose include:

- Unresponsiveness or loss of consciousness
- Blue, gray or white lips or fingernails
- Slow or stopped breathing
- Snoring or gurgling sounds

Overdoses that involve fentanyl might also have additional symptoms, including:

- Stiff, rigid or wooden-like jaw, chest or torso
- Seizure-like symptoms, such as jerking limbs and muscle spasms
- Slow or irregular heartbeat

If you suspect that someone is experiencing an opioid-involved overdose, it is important to act quickly and administer naloxone right away.

Overdose Prevention Tips

- If you use drugs, use them with other people and take turns, or have someone check on you.
- Avoid mixing drugs. Using different drugs together, including alcohol, increases your risk of overdose.
- Test your drugs. Fentanyl test strips can tell you if your drugs have fentanyl in them.
- Go slow by taking small amounts.

Call **888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355)** to find naloxone near you.

