

FENTANYL

LEARN THE TRUTH

**FACT**

You cannot overdose on fentanyl by touching it

Fentanyl must enter the system through the mucus membrane or the bloodstream. It is not a volatile drug, so when it is left undisturbed, it can't cause harm. It cannot easily enter through the skin. Panic from fear of exposure can cause symptoms of a "nocebo" effect - feeling sick without cause.

Naloxone does work on fentanyl

Naloxone can block or reverse the effect of any opioid by binding to the opioid receptors. The overdose response from fentanyl is often faster than other opioids, which is why naloxone must be administered quickly & more doses may be required.

**FACT****FACT**

Fentanyl has not been found in cannabis

Illicit fentanyl has been found in cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine & illicit benzodiazepines, in the form of pills & powders. There are no confirmed cases of fentanyl found in cannabis. Commercial vaping products do not reach the temperature required to vape fentanyl.

Fentanyl has approved medical uses to treat pain

When used exactly as prescribed from a pharmaceutical source, fentanyl can be safe. It can come in the form of lozenges, patches & nasal sprays. Unregulated, inconsistent drug supply & potency are what makes illicit fentanyl so dangerous.

**FACT****FACT**

There is no overdose risk from secondhand smoke

Most of the drug is filtered out of fentanyl once someone smokes it, so the risk of exposure from secondhand smoke is extremely low. Like secondhand tobacco smoke, the danger is in exposure to carbon monoxide or other byproducts of burning.



Learn more at denvergov.org/overdoseprevention