National Fentanyl Awareness Day

#OnePillCanKill
WHAT IS IT?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin.

Fentanyl is commonly added to things like vapes and marijuana.

Many users believe that they are purchasing a vape or marijuana and don’t know that they are purchasing fentanyl – which often results in overdose deaths.

These items laced with fentanyl are primarily manufactured through illicit means.
THE FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

ILLEGAL DRUGS DO NOT COME WITH AN INGREDIENTS LIST. MANY CONTAIN DEADLY DOSES OF FENTANYL.

Street names for IMF include:

- Apache
- Dance Fever
- Friend
- Goodfellas
- Jackpot
- Murder 8
- Tango & Cash

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50x stronger than heroin and 100x stronger than morphine.
Teen years are often a time to explore and learn more about themselves as they approach adulthood.

Often, this involves experimenting and testing their boundaries. The desire to do something new or risky is a normal part of teen development. Teens who perceive little risk in using drugs are more likely to use drugs.

**Teens may also use drugs or alcohol to:**
- Relieve boredom
- Feel good
- Forget their troubles and relax
- Satisfy their curiosity
- Ease their pain
- Feel grown up
- Show their independence
- Belong to a specific group
WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS OF DRUG USE?

Many factors influence a teen’s likelihood to use illegal substances or develop a substance abuse disorder. Effective drug prevention focuses on reducing the risk factors and strengthening the protective factors that are most closely related to substance abuse.

Risk factors are circumstances or events that increase a teen’s use and abuse of drugs. The more risk factors present, the more likely a child may be to use drugs and develop problems.

Risk factors for drug use include:
- Low grades or failure in school
- Victim of bullying or cyberbullying
- Low self esteem
- Parent or older sibling drug/alcohol use
- Living in a community with a high tolerance for smoking, drinking, or drug use among youth
- Attending a school without strict rules for tobacco, alcohol, or drugs and inconsistent enforcement for breaking those rules
- Belief that there is little risk in using a drug
Gummies and vaping are the two most popular methods of drug delivery by teenagers.
IF IT’S NOT BOUGHT AT A STORE, DON’T EAT IT!
THIS AMOUNT CAN KILL DOZENS OF PEOPLE!
OVERDOSE IS LIKELY

Signs of overdose
Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

What to do if you think someone is overdosing
It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, treat it like an overdose—you could save a life.

1. Call 911 Immediately.*
2. Administer naloxone, if available.**
3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
4. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
5. Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.
WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF TEEN DRUG USE?

The most serious is death by OVERDOSE!

Beyond death, there are serious and potentially long-lasting medical consequences, which include brain and neurological damage as well as addiction.

There are also criminal, civil, and administrative consequences connected with drug possession and use that have a nexus to school.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Protective factors are those characteristics that can reduce a person's risk for substance abuse or addiction.

Protective factors that may decrease the risk of drug use include:

• Build a strong bond with your student/teenager(s) as parent or caregiver
• Build self esteem
• Talk about drugs, abuse and risk factors
• Keep your student active in school, athletic, and/or community activities
• Spending time around positive role models
• Foster a community that offers youths activities where drugs and alcohol are not tolerated
• Support your school and their alcohol and drug education program, non-tolerance policy for alcohol and drugs
• Instill the belief that using drugs may be harmful or risky
• Lock up or secure prescription medications and over the counter drugs
An Adolescent may be using if:

- Changes in friend groups, interests or isolation
- Apathy, low productivity & low morale
- Aggressive behaviors & Severe Mood swings
- Change in appearance; DECREASED HYGIENE
- Lower energy level, drowsy, lethargic, nods off
- Scars or track mark; excessive scratching
- Poor academic performance, attendance, attentiveness
This reference guide is intended to give parents, caregivers, & educators a better understanding of how emojis are being used to communicate about illegal drugs. Fake Prescription pills, often laced with deadly fentanyl & methamphetamine, are often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms- making them available to anyone with a smartphone.

Disclaimer: These emojis reflect common examples found in DEA investigations. This list is not all-inclusive, and the images above are a representative sample.
SUPPORTS & SERVICES

• Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) resource.
• The OSARs are funded by HHSC to help Texans confidentially address substance use/misuse and addiction.
• We’ve included the OSAR resource for each county our ILTexas campuses serve.
My Health My Resources MHMR of Tarrant County
Serving Tarrant County
3840 Hulen Tower North
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Crisis phone: 800-866-2465
Substance use disorder information, screening, and referral phone: 817-332-6329
https://www.mhmrtarrant.org/

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority
Serving Dallas County
8111 LBJ Freeway
Suite 900
Dallas, TX 75251
Crisis phone: 866-260-8000
Main phone: 877-653-6363
OSAR phone: 844-275-0600
OSAR e mail: osar@ntbha.org
https://www.ntbha.org
The Harris Center for Mental Health
Serving Harris County
9401 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77074
OSAR phone: 713-970-4400 Option 6
Helpline: 713-970-7000
Toll free phone: 866-970-4770
For people with hearing impairments: 800-735-2988
https://www.theharriscenter.org

Gulf Coast Center
Serving Harris County
7510 FM 1765
Texas City, TX 77591
Crisis phone: 866-729-3848
Main phone: 409-944-4365
OSAR phone: 844-704-1291
https://www.gulfcoastcenter.org
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services Serving Brazos County
1009 N. Georgetown St.
Round Rock, TX 78664
Crisis phone: 800-841-1255
OSAR phone: 844-309-6385
https://bbtrails.org/
https://bbtrails.org/substance-use-services/

Council on Recovery Serving Harris and Liberty County
303 Jackson Hill St.
Houston, TX 77007
OSAR phone: 713-942-4100
Helpline: 713-970-7000
https://www.councilonrecovery.org/get-help-now/
Resource Directory
If you see something... Say something!

Want to know more:

ILTexas Fentanyl Awareness site:  
https://www.iltexas.org/families/fentanyl-awareness

CDC Facts About Fentanyl:  
https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html

Drug Enforcement Agency Facts Sheet:  
https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/fentanyl

National Institute on Drug Abuse:  
https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl
RESOURCES

• English
  • Fentanyl The Invisible Killer (PDF)
  • Fentanyl Fact Sheet (PDF)
  • Fentanyl Crisis Common Emoji Codes (PDF)
  • Fentanyl Awareness One-Pager (PDF)

• Spanish
  • Fentanilo el asesino invisible (PDF)
  • Datos sobre el fentanilo (PDF)
  • Fentanilo código de drogas con emojis (PDF)
  • Concientización sobre el fentanilo (PDF)

• Opioid Use/Misuse Videos: HHSC has published a series of short videos as part of the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR). The harm of fentanyl is addressed in select videos.
  • https://txopioidresponse.org/ or Youtube English
  • https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJE6pz0haTBpVPqh0mQ4RRDmTRtrBdRFe Spanish
  • https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJE6pz0haTBogHQ22ps2CpBiOrRXLb8O