



# Illegal Fentanyl: What You Need to Know

Alcohol & Drug Education & Prevention Team  
Mental Health & Recovery Services





# After today's workshop, you will be able to ...

- ❖ Understand how illegal fentanyl is made.
- ❖ Identify the risk of taking illegal fentanyl.
- ❖ Describe how youth get drugs with illegal fentanyl.
- ❖ Use prevention strategies to keep your family safe.

# Opiates:

# Opium vs. Opioids

**Opiates** are drugs that are derived from opium poppies and **relieve pain.**

**Opioids** are laboratory-made versions of opiates. Examples are Vicodin<sup>©</sup>, OxyContin<sup>©</sup> and **fentanyl.**

# Rx Fentanyl

Manufactured by pharmaceutical companies.

Used in legitimate medications as patches or lozenges.

Prescribed by a licensed provider and filled by a pharmacy.

# Illegal Fentanyl

Manufactured by transnational criminal organizations.

Mixed into street drugs and fake pills.

Purchased on social media, from a friend or dealer.

# The possible effects of illegal fentanyl are **immediate:**

- Confusion
- Changes in pupil size
- Coma
- Respiratory failure
- Death

50 x  
MORE  
POTENT  
THAN  
HEROIN



Source: U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration 2022



Source: U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration 2022

Which is fake?

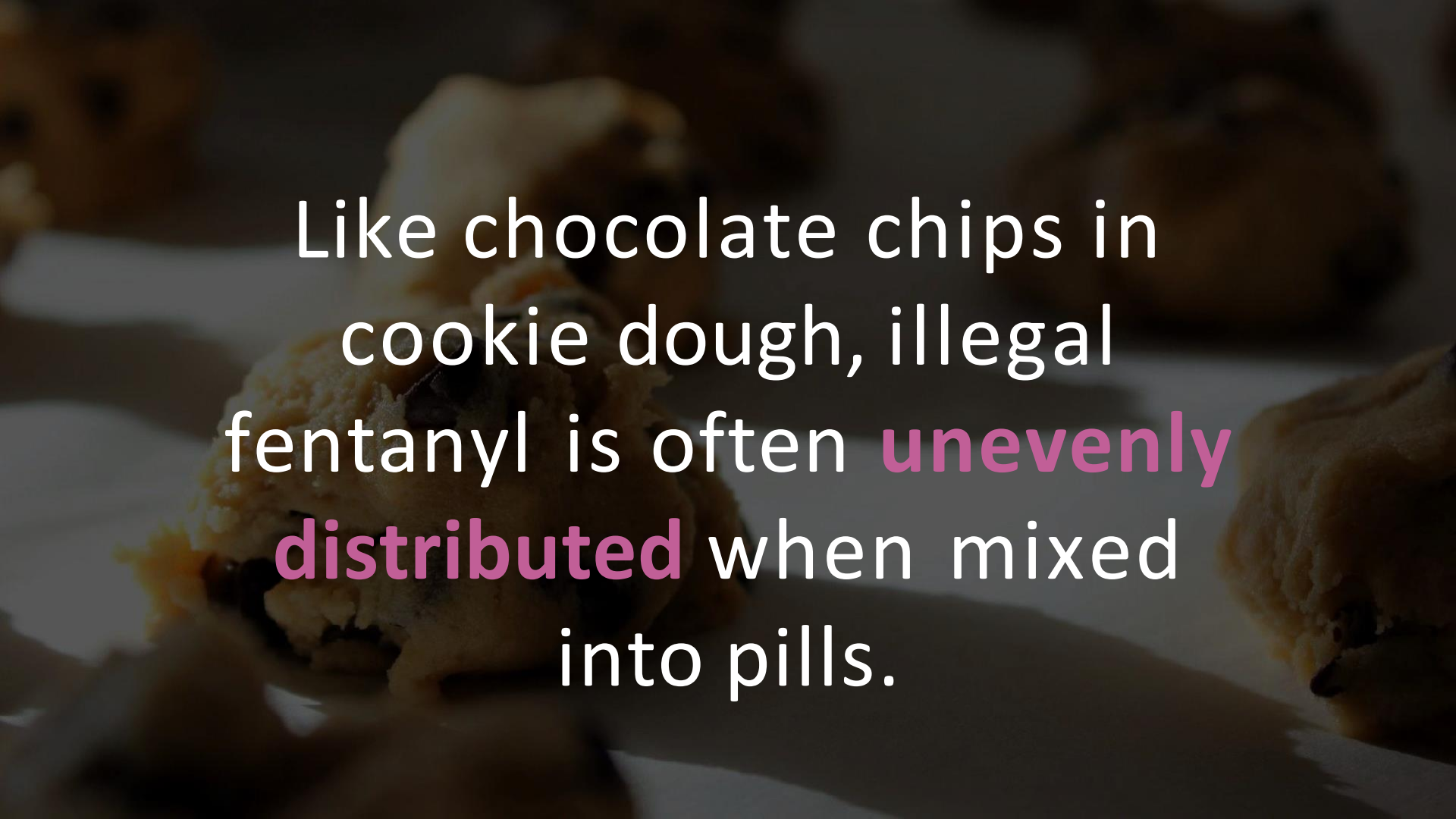






This is a **lethal dose** of illegal fentanyl.

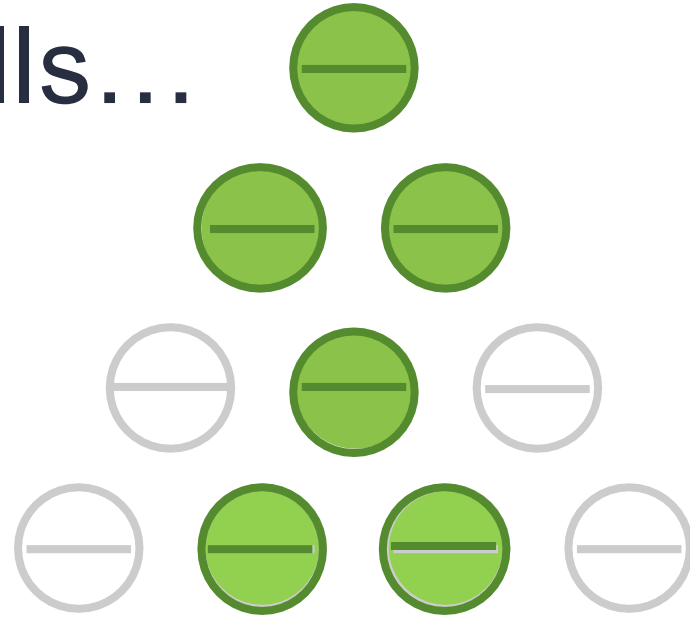
*Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration 2022*



Like chocolate chips in  
cookie dough, illegal  
fentanyl is often **unevenly**  
**distributed** when mixed  
into pills.

“6 out of every 10 pills...

seized and tested by the  
Drug Enforcement  
Administration contains a  
potentially lethal dose of  
illegal fentanyl.”







## Illegal fentanyl-related deaths among minors (2017-2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
10 - 17 years	0	0	1	7	19

Source: Orange County Sheriff's Department 2022



How can we keep our  
children safe?

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## Positive:

- Feel less isolation
- Able to connect with others

## Negative:

- Youth face unrealistic standards
- Affects their mental health
- Access for illicit fentanyl





# CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

- The time you spend together has a lasting effect on your children.
- Engaging with your children can be simple and part of your daily activities.





# Simple activities can be meaningful...



- Read to your child
- Do a puzzle together
- Take a walk with them
- Prepare meals together
- Play board or online games

# Medications at home



## **MONITOR**

Learn to read medication labels.



## **SECURE**

Out of sight, out of reach.

Lock medications that are rarely used.



## **DESTROY**

Drop box or destroy in home.

# Opioid Reversal Drug





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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**



**U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration**



**National Institute on Drug Abuse**



**Substance Abuse Mental Health Services  
Administration Health and Human Services**



# SURVEY

Please click on the  
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