

# What Parents, Caregivers and School Staff Should Know About Fentanyl

## What you need to know about fentanyl

- **Fentanyl can be prescribed by medical providers** to treat severe pain.
- **It is also illegally manufactured and distributed on the street.** Some common street names include: Apache, Murder 8, Tango & Cash, Goodfellas, Dance Fever, Friend, and Jackpot.
- **Fentanyl comes in different forms** including liquid, powder, and pressed pills. It can be mixed with other drugs and often resembles other prescription medications. Rainbow fentanyl, a new trend, comes in brightly colored pills resembling candy to appeal to young people and children.
- **The presence of fentanyl cannot be determined by sight, smell, or taste.** Fentanyl test strips can be used to determine if fentanyl is present in a substance.
- **Two milligrams is a potentially lethal dose.** That's about the same as 10-15 grains of table salt.

Colored pills



2 milligrams



### 2021 Impact in Maricopa County

64%	18.5%
of all overdose deaths involved fentanyl	of opioid overdose deaths were individuals ≤ 19

[See more community data here](#)

### Fentanyl is

50 times stronger than heroin	100 times stronger than morphine
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[See more fentanyl facts here](#)

## How you can keep kids safe

**Start a conversation:** Speak with children directly and honestly about drug use. These may be difficult conversations, but it can help children make better decisions and avoid high-risk behaviors. Learn how to talk with children about alcohol and drug use at [samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you](https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you).

Monitor children's social media accounts, and talk with them about what they see. Social media is a common tool to market/sell drugs.

### Recognize the signs & symptoms of an overdose:

- Individuals suffering from an overdose may be cold/clammy with small, "pinpoint" pupils and discolored skin, especially in the lips and nails.
- Their body may become limp, and they may fall asleep or lose consciousness.
- They may begin to choke or make gurgling sounds; their breathing may become slow, weak, or stop altogether.

**Be prepared to respond to an overdose:** It may not be obvious whether an individual is high or suffering from an overdose. If unsure, treat the situation as an overdose.

- **Call 911 immediately** and perform CPR if the individual is not breathing. Try to keep the individual awake and on their side to prevent choking. Be sure to wait with them until help arrives. Arizona has a Good Samaritan Law protecting people seeking medical assistance during a drug-related overdose.
- **Naloxone (Narcan®) is a medication that is administered to reverse an opioid overdose.** It can be purchased at pharmacies in AZ without a prescription and may be covered by insurance. There are also local organizations that offer [free naloxone](#). ADHS provides [online training guides](#) and other related resources. If available, it should be administered in an overdose situation after calling 911.
- **Being prepared with Naloxone can save lives.** Over 70% of overdose deaths involved a witness or bystander.

### More Resources

Seek help for a loved one using the AHCCCS Treatment Locator

[opioidservicelocator.azahcccs.gov](https://opioidservicelocator.azahcccs.gov)

Dispose of unused or expired medications with the Dump The Drugs AZ program

[azdhs.gov/gis/dump-the-drugs-az](https://azdhs.gov/gis/dump-the-drugs-az)

Contact [substanceuse@maricopa.gov](mailto:substanceuse@maricopa.gov) or go online for more info

[maricopa.gov/substanceuse](https://maricopa.gov/substanceuse)