

Parent's Guide to Fentanyl

There is a significant risk for today's generation because of fentanyl. It is a deadly hidden threat. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous.

Parents, guardians, educators, and anyone responsible for children must rely on drug prevention education to safeguard children and teens from this growing threat.

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Speak honestly with your kids about choices and risky behaviors.


Stay educated on current drug trends so you can teach your children.


Be clear and consistent about family rules, boundaries, and guidelines.


Listen to what they have to say, respect their opinions, and do not be judgmental.


Encourage positive friendships and encourage them to find things that interest them.


Create a safe space for them to ask questions. Never make them feel wrong for wanting to know more about drugs.


Correct wrong beliefs they may have with factual information. Help them learn, don't just lecture.


Educate them about online safety and safe and healthy social media use.

How are Kids Getting Fentanyl?



Drug dealers use social media apps for advertising and selling their products. Prospective buyers use the apps and can easily search for drugs using codewords, emojis, hashtags, and other means. Drug traffickers also advertise using posts and stories; as quickly as accounts are shut down, a new one takes its place.

The buyer will direct message or comment on the post using code words or emojis. Conversations will then move to encrypted messaging platforms like Signal, WhatsApp, or Telegram. Once the deal is made, payment is made through Venmo, Paypal, or cryptocurrency. The packages are then shipped via standard post.

This disturbing trend becomes even worse when you realize that the majority of the drug bought this way are usually tainted with fentanyl. Unsuspecting adolescents who think they are experimenting with a non-lethal drug are in grave danger.

Why Fentanyl is Hard to Avoid

While fentanyl is sold by itself, it is very rarely sought out by kids looking to experiment with drugs. Unfortunately, many individuals who aren't trying to use fentanyl end up in contact with it. This is because it is used as an additive to many illicit drugs. There have been traces of fentanyl found in heroin, cocaine, meth, and even marijuana. There are even fentanyl pills that are pressed to look like other legitimate prescription drugs. Adolescents who are experimenting with drugs are becoming more and more at risk.