EMERGING DRUG ALERT · OVERDOSE PREVENTION

# Cychlorphine

What families, schools, and communities need to know about a new synthetic opioid.

**Cychlorphine** (N-propionitrile chlorphine) is an emerging synthetic opioid that can be **up to 10 times more potent than fentanyl**. It may be mixed with fentanyl or other drugs without a person's knowledge and **may not be detected by drug test strips or routine hospital opioid screens.**

**10×**
Up to 10 times stronger than fentanyl[3]

**55+**
Deaths linked nationally, 2025–2026[3]

**106**
Drug-supply reports in 10 states in 2025, up from 1 in 2024[3]

## Why it's especially dangerous

- **Hidden in other drugs.** Found in counterfeit pills and fentanyl powder, and mixed with meth, cocaine, and more.[3,4]
- **Hard to detect.** Test strips and routine hospital urine opioid screens don't pick it up.[3]
- **May need extra naloxone.** An overdose may take more than one dose to reverse.[3,4]
- **Close to home.** San Francisco reported its first related death in April 2026.[5]

### Signs of an opioid overdose[1]

- Won't wake up or respond to voice or touch
- Slow, shallow, or no breathing
- Tiny "pinpoint" pupils
- Blue or gray lips and fingertips
- Choking, gurgling, or snoring sounds

## If you suspect an overdose

1. **Call 911 right away.** Time is critical. California's Good Samaritan law protects people who call for help.[2,4]
2. **Give naloxone (Narcan).** It's safe even if opioids aren't involved. No response in 2–3 minutes? Give another dose.[1,2]
3. **Support breathing.** Give rescue breaths if trained, or lay the person on their side.[1]
4. **Stay with them** until help arrives, or for at least 4 hours.[2]

Exposure questions? **Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222**[3]

## Protect yourself and others

**Carry naloxone.** It's over the counter, no prescription needed.[2]

**Only take pills** prescribed to you and dispensed by a pharmacy.[4]

**Talk about it.** Share this with young people, families, and staff.

#OverdosePrevention #NaloxoneSavesLives #HarmReduction


**SOURCES**

1. SAMHSA, Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit — library.samhsa.gov/product/overdose-prevention-response-toolkit/pep23-03-00-001
2. CDC, Lifesaving Naloxone — cdc.gov/stop-overdose/caring/naloxone.html
3. White House ONDCP, Drug Threat Notice: Cychlorphine — whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Drug-Threat-Cychlorohine-justified-.pdf
4. DEA, Public Safety Advisory (May 12, 2026) — dea.gov/press-releases/2026/05/12/public-safety-advisory
5. ABC7 News, SF records 1st overdose death from cychlorphine (Apr. 25, 2026) — abc7news.com/18962840



**San Mateo County Office of Education** · Substance Use Prevention and Youth Engagement

Karla Rodriguez, MPH · krodriguez@smcoe.org