

Drug Free Adams County

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Drug Free

Adams County
Rays of Hope for a Better Tomorrow

Beware of the Dangers of Fentanyl

Overdoses are on the rise with the increased availability and use of one particularly dangerous opioid drug. It's name? Fentanyl.

What is it?

It is a synthetic (man-made) drug that is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. This powerful analgesic drug is used to manage surgical, severe, or sometimes chronic pain in people who are tolerant to other opioids. The DEA classifies fentanyl as a Schedule II controlled substance, and it was involved in almost 29 percent of all overdose deaths in 2016, making it the most commonly used drug in overdose fatalities.

Why is it so dangerous?

Fentanyl may be “cut” with other drugs or substances in order to make them go further. It has been found in heroin, meth, cocaine, crack cocaine, **and even marijuana**. Fentanyl can be up to 50 times stronger than heroin. While mixing fentanyl into heroin makes it cheaper, stronger, and potentially more desirable because it blocks pain receptors and increases dopamine, it also causes many adverse health impacts. Fentanyl can



Source: CDC – lethal dose of fentanyl

cause altered heartbeat, anxiety, muscle spasms, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hallucinations, and stronger physical dependence and withdrawal. Just two milligrams—comparable to about two grains of salt—can be fatal.

In addition to being added to substances such as cocaine and heroin, fentanyl and its even more lethal cousin carfentanil can be made into pills that mimic the look of Percocet, OxyContin, or other prescription drugs. Again, the results can be deadly.

Talk to your children about the dangers of fentanyl to help prevent them from potentially obtaining a cheap high that could cost them their lives.

For more information, please visit our website: www.DrugFreeAdamsCounty.org