

Keeping Youth Safe!

Fentanyl Information for Parents

Benton County youth are at risk for encountering fentanyl, which increases risk for overdose or witnessing overdose.

Deaths from fake pills with fentanyl are surging across the U.S. and in Oregon. There has been a significant increase of reported fentanyl-laced drugs in our region.

Teens are purchasing what they think are oxycodone, Percoset, Xanax, Vicodin, or Adderall pills, but drug dealers are making these fake pills with fentanyl to increase their profits. Fentanyl is cheaper, stronger, and more deadly than other opioids such as heroin, oxycodone, morphine, and others.

While most fentanyl in our region is being observed in counterfeit pills manufactured to resemble 30 mg prescription oxycodone pills (sometimes called "dirty 30's" or "blues"), it has also been reported in other substances, like heroin, MDMA, methamphetamine, cocaine, counterfeit Xanax, and other pressed pills.

Fentanyl Facts

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid, like morphine, but 50-100 times more powerful. The amount of fentanyl it takes for a fatal overdose is equivalent to two grains of sand.
- Fentanyl is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. You can't tell if there's fentanyl in pills by looking at them.
- The amount of fentanyl can vary between pills, even within the same batch. While one pill might not be deadly, another one could be.



It is nearly impossible to tell the difference between real and fake pills.

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Fentanyl Tips for Parents

Help protect your child from fentanyl by following these tips:

Open Communication

Talk to your child about never taking any medication that doesn't come directly from their doctor or pharmacist, even if it's from a friend. Listen to your child without judgement. As a trusted adult in their life, it is important to connect and hear what they have to say.

Look for Changes in Behavior

Changes outside of the age appropriate norm such as irregular eating or sleeping patterns, low energy, general signs of depression or anxiety, unusual irritability, slipping grades, lack of interest in activities they love, and even drastic clothing style changes can be warning signs. If you notice a change, ask about it.

Monitor Social Media

Talk to your child and monitor their social media use. The online environment provides platforms for people to sell substances. Substances can be offered by a friend or a stranger met online.

Resources:

- Benton County Crisis Line: 1-888-232-7192
- Lines for Life: 800-273-8255
- Oregon Youth Line: 877-968-8491 (text or call)
- [A Song for Charlie](#)
- [Beaverton School District Fake & Fatal](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority Naloxone Information](#)

What else can parents do?

Know the signs of an overdose:

- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow, shallow, or no breathing
- Gurgling or snoring
- Difficult to wake or can't wake
- Extreme drowsiness
- Cold, clammy skin
- Grey/blue skin, fingernails, or lips

Have naloxone on hand:

- Naloxone (also called Narcan) is an overdose reversal medication that can be prescribed by any pharmacist in Oregon.
- Get educated on how to use it, and keep it on hand. It can save a life!