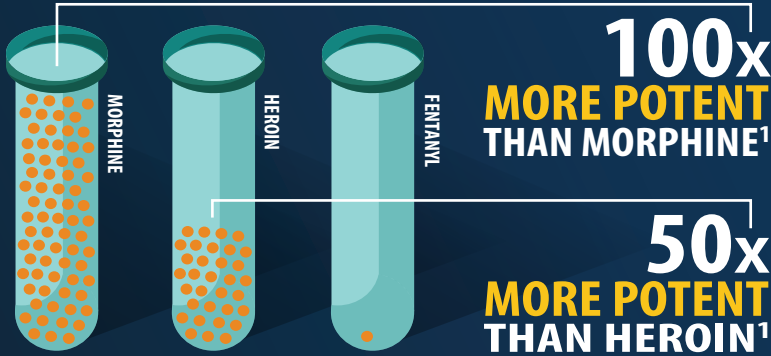


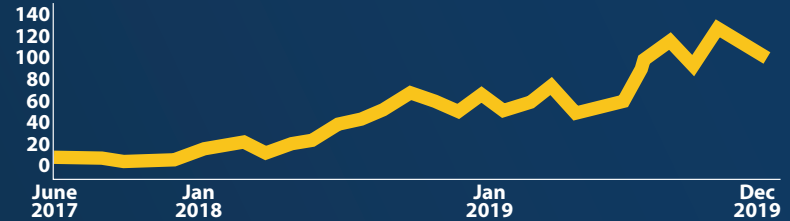
# FENTANYL: Overdoses On the Rise in Arizona

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



## FENTANYL OVERDOSES IN ARIZONA

Verified Non-Fatal Fentanyl Overdoses by Month



Fentanyl involvement in verified opioid overdoses increased the most since July 2017<sup>2</sup>

## COUNTERFEIT PILL SEIZURES WITH FENTANYL



**490%** 2018 TO 2019  
INCREASE IN ARIZONA<sup>4</sup>



## ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Fentanyl is often used to cut other illicit substances including **heroin**, **cocaine**, and **methamphetamine** to increase the potency as well as increase profit potential for manufacturers and distributors<sup>3</sup>



OFTEN MIXED WITH  
**OTHER**  
**DRUGS**  
WITH OR WITHOUT  
USER KNOWLEDGE

### References:

<sup>1,3</sup> DEA Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide 2020

<sup>2</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services Opioid Update & Surveillance Data Summary February 2020

<sup>4</sup> Arizona HIDTA as of January 09, 2020

# FENTANYL<sup>†</sup> SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH/PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

- ▶ **The abuse of drugs containing fentanyl<sup>†</sup> is killing Arizonans. Misinformation and inconsistent recommendations regarding fentanyl<sup>†</sup> have resulted in confusion in the first responder community.**
- ▶ You as a public health/public safety worker are increasingly likely to encounter fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in your daily activities ((e.g., attending to patients in the emergency department, conducting in-home services or visits, responding to overdose calls, conducting traffic stops, arrests, and searches).
- ▶ This document provides scientific, evidence-based recommendations to protect yourself from exposure.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ▶ Fentanyl<sup>†</sup> can be present in a variety of forms (e.g., powder, tablets, capsules, solutions, and rocks).
- ▶ Inhalation of airborne powder is MOST LIKELY to lead to harmful effects, but is less likely to occur than skin contact.
- ▶ Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to harmful effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with water.
- ▶ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is effective in protecting you from exposure.
- ▶ Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness, and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with fentanyl<sup>†</sup> intoxication.
- ▶ Naloxone is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of fentanyl<sup>†</sup>.

### Actions to take . . .

#### To protect yourself from exposure

- ▶ Wear **gloves** when the presence of fentanyl<sup>†</sup> is suspected.
- ▶ **AVOID actions that may cause powder to become airborne.**
- ▶ Use a properly-fitted, NIOSH-approved **respirator** (“mask”), wear **eye protection**, and minimize skin contact when responding to a situation where small amounts of suspected fentanyl<sup>†</sup> are visible and may become airborne.
- ▶ Follow your department guidelines if the scene involves large amounts of suspected fentanyl<sup>†</sup> (e.g., distribution/storage facility, pill milling operation, clandestine lab, gross contamination, spill or release).

#### When exposure occurs

- ▶ Prevent further contamination and notify other first responders and dispatch.
- ▶ Do not touch your eyes, mouth, nose or any skin after touching any potentially contaminated surface.
- ▶ Wash skin thoroughly with cool water, and soap if available. **Do NOT use hand sanitizers as they may enhance absorption.**
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly after the incident and before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the restroom.
- ▶ If you suspect your clothing, shoes, and PPE may be contaminated, follow your department guidelines for decontamination.

#### If you or a co-worker exhibits

- **Slow Breathing or No Breathing**
- **Drowsiness or Unresponsiveness**
- **Constricted or Pinpoint Pupils**
- ▶ Move away from the source of exposure and call EMS.
- ▶ Administer naloxone according to your department protocols. Multiple doses may be required.
- ▶ If naloxone is not available, rescue breathing can be a lifesaving measure until EMS arrives. Use standard basic life support safety precautions (e.g., pocket mask, gloves) to address the exposure risk.
- ▶ If needed, initiate CPR until EMS arrives.

Collaborative  
Support From:



- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American College of Medical Toxicologists
- American Industrial Hygiene Association
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
- Fraternal Order of Police

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriffs of America
- National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies

- National Association of Counties
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- National Association of EMS Physicians
- National Association of State EMS Officials

- National Governor's Association
- National HIDTA Directors Association
- National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition
- National Sheriffs' Association
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Police Foundation

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/key-issues/fentanyl>