

## What Is Fentanyl?

A synthetic opioid. Fentanyl was first manufactured in the 1950s and then used as an intravenous anesthetic in the 1960s.

Fentanyl can be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine or heroin.



### FATAL DOSES — HEROIN VS. FENTANYL:

Because of its potency fentanyl can be lethal in a much smaller amount.

- In 2020, more than 56,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. involved synthetic opioids. The rate of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids was 18 times higher in 2020 than in 2013.  
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- The DEA estimates more than a dozen variants of fentanyl are now being produced illegally. Fentanyl is now routinely mixed with heroin, cocaine, meth and other drugs—and to manufacture counterfeit pills.  
- Drug Enforcement Administration

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## Enough To Kill Millions

How much fentanyl are dealers mixing with other drugs and how little do they care about the potential for fatal consequences?

During a 2022 investigation that broke up a drug trafficking operation in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the **COMBAT-funded Jackson County Drug Task Force**, working with other law enforcement agents, seized 10.4 kilograms (22.9 pounds) of fentanyl, enough fentanyl for millions—*literally millions*—of potentially lethal doses.



COMBAT has been supporting agencies offering prevention and treatment services in Jackson County for more than 30 years. Voters first approved the Community Backed Anti-Crime Tax in 1989, making Jackson County the nation's first county with a sales tax dedicated to funding drug abuse prevention programs and substance use disorder treatment.

COMBAT's mission expanded in 2009 to also include violence prevention.

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# FENTANYL

GET THE FACTS

When a tiny speck is enough to **KILL** there's no drug dealer you can trust with your life

**Jackson County COMBAT**  
Community • Prevention • Treatment • Justice

## Don't Gamble With Your Life!

Are you willing to bet your life—when the odds are only about 50/50—that pill isn't a fake made with fentanyl? More than 40% of the counterfeit pills the DEA confiscates are laced with enough fentanyl to kill you!

### What's A Fatal Dose?

The speck of fentanyl on this penny (printed to scale at 100%) is enough to be fatal. You can barely see it even when we remove most of the detail from the coin.



# ALL IT TAKES



Just 2 milligrams of fentanyl—0.00007 ounces or about one-sixth of what a typical housefly weighs—can be lethal.

### Are You Taking Fentanyl?

Dealers are mixing fentanyl with other drugs and to make fake prescription pills. You're risking your life taking any drugs not prescribed for you by your doctor.

# 50/50 Odds

### What Will A Fentanyl Overdose Do To You?

Your breathing will slow or even come to a complete stop. Lack of oxygen flow to the brain can lead to coma, permanent brain damage and death.



**LEADING KILLER:** Fentanyl-involved overdoses are now a leading cause of death among teens and young adults.

### Why Do Dealers Use It?

Drug dealers don't care if their customers live or die. Fentanyl is cheap to produce; a little goes a long way. Fentanyl's high potency can also alter a user's brain chemistry, making them more dependent on the drugs the dealers are selling.

### Isn't It A Medication?

Fentanyl is given medically in a dosage restricted to a few *micrograms*. (There are 1,000 micrograms in a single milligram.) While a doctor will closely monitor a patient receiving fentanyl, the disregard for life drug dealers have is criminal: The DEA has tested fake OxyContin pills that each contain as much as 5 milligrams of fentanyl—or 2½ times a lethal dose.

**GET THE FACTS**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

**WARN THOSE YOU KNOW & LOVE**



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