

Fentanyl & Carfentanil

One time could be the LAST time

What are fentanyl and carfentanil?

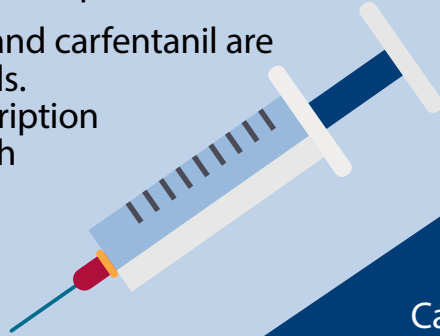
Fentanyl is a synthetic (man-made) opioid that works like morphine. It may be used to treat severe pain after surgeries and for pain at the end of life in patients with cancer. Carfentanil is another synthetic opioid. It is used as a tranquilizer for very large animals like elephants.

Opioid overdoses are on the rise. Fentanyl and carfentanil can be deadly when injected, smoked, snorted, swallowed, or used in the rectum. Touching or inhaling fentanyl powder in the air or on surfaces does not cause an overdose.

Why are we concerned?

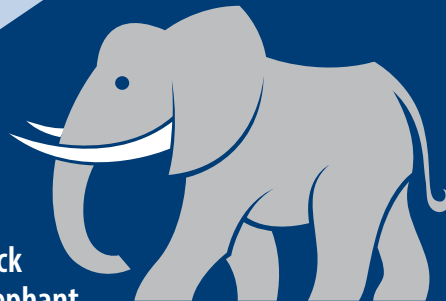
Fentanyl and carfentanil are prescription drugs that are used for medical purposes. They are also made illegally and added to street drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

Illegally made fentanyl and carfentanil are added to counterfeit pills. They look just like prescription pills and can cause death within seconds.

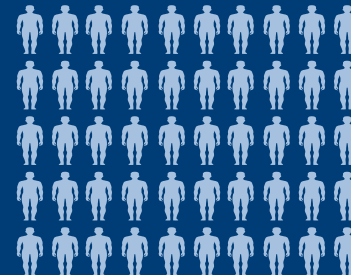


How strong is carfentanil?

Carfentanil is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

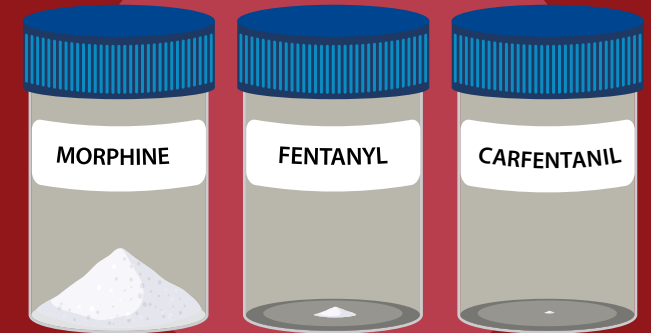


2 mg dose will knock out an average size elephant...



...and is enough to kill about **50 people**

Equal doses of each drug

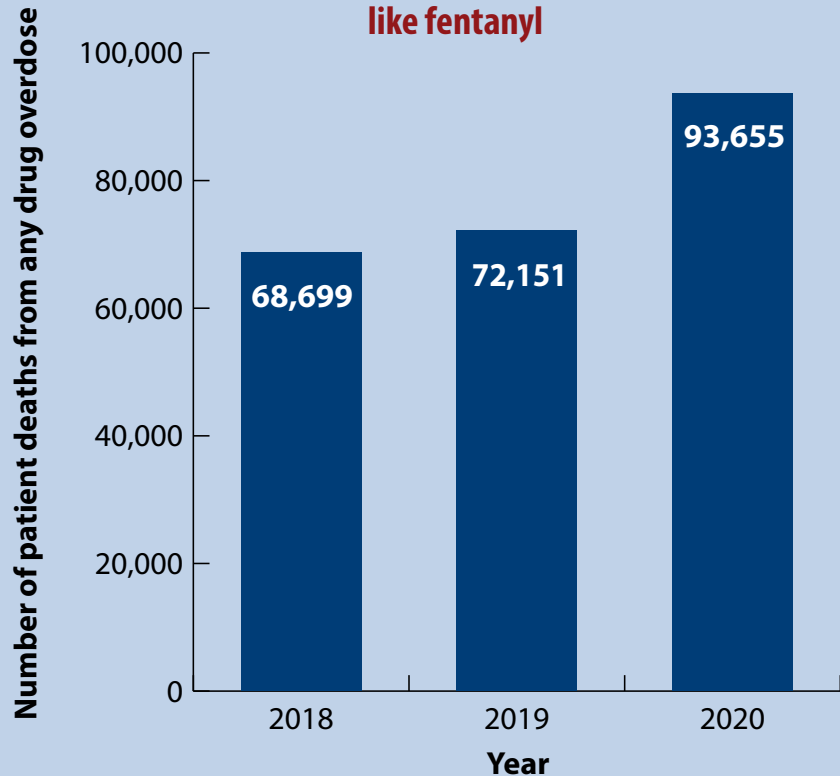


How strong is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin.

Drug overdoses continue to increase with nearly 100,000 deaths in 2020

In 2020, about **64%** of overdoses involved an illegally manufactured synthetic opioid like fentanyl



NEVER USE ALONE.

If you are going to use by yourself, call 1-800-484-3731.
<https://neverusealone.com>

What can you do?

There are treatments that work to help you stop using opioids. Talk to your VA provider to get started if:



- You are using street drugs.
- You are unable to control how much street drugs you use.
- You have accidentally overdosed in the past on street drugs.
- You are around others who are using or have overdosed on street drugs.

Your provider can offer treatments, such as:

1. Naloxone, a life-saving medicine that temporarily reverses opioid overdose. It can be sprayed in the nose or injected.
 - Always keep naloxone with you and know how to use it.
 - Make sure friends and family know where you keep naloxone and how to use it.
2. Medications to help people who want to stop using opioids:
 - buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®)
 - methadone
 - naltrexone injection
3. Referral to substance treatment programs
4. Test strips/kits to test drugs for fentanyl/carfentanil may be available from the VA and community harm reduction programs. People who sell drugs may not know the drugs contain fentanyl/carfentanil.
5. Other supplies that can reduce harms from drug use, such as sterile syringes and sharps containers



NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

Please call _____ with any questions or concerns.