

The Intrusion of Fentanyl in Our Society



Pinal County
Adult Probation

Stephanie Meyer- Surveillance Officer

AGENDA

Provide the risks of fentanyl use and overdose awareness

The proper use of Narcan

Inform you about the fentanyl stigma and harm reduction education

FENTANYL POISONING POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, KILLING MORE PEOPLE LAST YEAR THAN SUICIDE, COVID-19 AND CAR ACCIDENTS

1. *FENTANYL POISONING*

2. SUICIDE

3. COVID-19

4. CAR ACCIDENTS

Fentanyl is now the #1 cause of death for Americans age 18 to 45.

The fentanyl we see today is even deadlier than before. Fentanyl pills today are more potent. DEA laboratory testing in 2023 showed that 7 out of 10 pills tested contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from 4 out of 10 pills in 2021 and 6 out of 10 pills in 2022. A potentially deadly dose is considered just two milligrams of fentanyl

- Fentanyl was first developed in 1959 and introduced in the 1960s as an intravenous anesthetic.
- Prescription and illicit fentanyl are addictive and responsible for an increasing number of deaths in Arizona
- Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl.
- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

What does it look like?

Fentanyl is encountered either as a powder, liquid or in fake tablets and is sold alone or in combination with other drugs such as heroin or cocaine.



COMMON STREET NAMES INCLUDE:

Blues, China Girl, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Jackpot, King Ivory, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash.



**“WE ARE
OVERCOME
WITH THE
FENTANYL PILLS”**



2023 Fentanyl Facts

Fentanyl has been found laced into Cocaine, Heroine, Ecstasy, Xanax, OxyContin and Marijuana sold on the street

In 2023, the DEA seized more than 79.5 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2023 seizures are equivalent to more than 376.7 million lethal doses of fentanyl

In 2023, the DEA Phoenix Division along with our federal, state and local counterparts seized more than 40 million fentanyl pills and over 380 pounds of fentanyl powder in Arizona, saving over 30 million lives.

Source:
[One Pill Can Kill | DEA.gov](https://www.dea.gov/one-pill-can-kill)

Xylazine

A tranquilizer that is increasingly being found in the US illegal drug supply and linked to overdose deaths.¹ Xylazine (also called “tranq” or “tranq dope”)—which is not approved for use in people—can be life-threatening and is especially dangerous when combined with opioids like fentanyl. It is a drug intended for use in animals as a sedative and pain reliever. **It is not safe for humans.**

1. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#)



Xylazine

Tranq

The drug is called Xylazine,
or its street name, Tranq.



People are at a Higher Risk for Opioid Overdose When:

- **Mixing Different Types of Drugs**
 - **Opioids with Alcohol or Cocaine or Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Ativan).**
- **Quality of Drug**
 - **Street drugs being laced with fentanyl**
- **Low Tolerance**
 - **Period of abstinence due to incarceration, hospitalization, or inpatient treatment**
- **Weak Immune System or Illness**
 - **Suffer from chronic Illness, Recent Surgery, Heart Disease**

How is it Abused

- **Injection**
- **Snorting/sniffed or smoked**
- **Taken orally by pill or tablet**
- **Spiked onto blotter paper**
- **Patches**

What is the effect on the body

- **Relaxation**
- **Euphoria**
- **Pain Relief**
- **Sedation**
- **Confusion**
- **Drowsiness**
- **Vomiting**
- **Respiratory Depression**

What does a fentanyl overdose look like?

When someone overdoses on fentanyl, the person becomes unresponsive, has changes in pupillary size, cold and clammy skin, very limp body, and they may snore and pass out. The presence of symptoms such as coma, pinpoint pupils, and respiratory depression are strongly suggestive of opioid poisoning.



Which drugs cause similar effects?

Drugs that cause similar effects include other opioids such as morphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, methadone, and heroin



WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING? Call 911 Immediately!

A person needs specific drugs and medical care to reverse an overdose. No amount of coffee, cold showers or “walking them around” will help. If an overdose is not treated, the person can die or have brain damage. If you have a naloxone kit, use it. Naloxone can temporarily reduce the overdose and allow time for medical help to arrive. This is true even if you are on probation for possession. The most commonly cited reasons for not calling emergency services is fear of arrest/punishment by law enforcement.





Arizona Good Samaritan Law

Arizona has enacted the **GOOD SAMARITAN LAW** which prohibits an individual who has sought medical assistance related to an overdose from being charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for the charge or prosecution of the drug-related crime resulted solely from seeking medical assistance.

In other words... neither you, nor the overdose victim, can be charged for possession if you call 911 for an overdose (ARS 13-3423).

When and How to Use Naloxone





What is Naloxone?

Naloxone rapidly reverses opioid overdose.

Narcan is the brand name of naloxone.

Opioid antagonist— blocks the effects of opioids.

Restores normal respiration to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped as a result of overdosing with an opioid.

How Does It Work

Naloxone binds to opioid receptors in the brain in place of opioid drugs. When opioids are prevented from binding to these receptors, the brain does not flood with dopamine due to the intoxicating substance. Although naloxone can have some side effects, it does not induce any euphoria when bound to opioid receptors in the brain, nor does it kill pain. It simply prevents opioids from binding there, which can temporarily reverse an overdose. The [effects of naloxone](#) begin within 2-5 minutes after the medication is administered.

Naloxone Does NOT Reverse...

- **Sedatives**

- Valium, Ativan,
Xanax

- Alcohol

- **Stimulants**

- Cocaine

- Amphetamines



Naloxone vs. Opioid Duration

- Naloxone has a relatively short duration compared to opioids.
- Naloxone may wear off and, dependent upon the amount of opioids used, signs of OD may reappear.

When to Use Naloxone

Altered level of consciousness

- Unable to wake up with painful stimuli

Respiratory depression or apnea

- Slow, shallow breathing (< 10 breaths/minute)
- Apnea (not breathing)

With Associated:

- Constricted (pinpoint) pupils, Pale or cyanotic (blue)
- Suspicion of opiate overdose

Things to do Before Administering Naloxone

1. **Lay person** on their back.
2. **Sternum rub**: Make a fist with your hand. Press and rub on the chest of unresponsive individual.
3. If no response, **administer naloxone**.



Administering Naloxone



- Tilt head back
- Depress plunger firmly
- After 1st dose wait for 2-3 minutes
- Give 2nd dose at 4 minutes if needed
 - using a new Naloxone plunger
- Once breathing resumes, place in the recovery position
- **ALWAYS CALL 911**



Recovery Position



1. On left side
2. Hands support head
3. Knee prevents person from rolling on stomach
4. **Never leave the person alone**



Review



- **Recognize opiate OD**
 - Decreased/LOC
 - Decreased/No Breathing
 - Opioid OD setting
- **Give sternum rub/stimuli**
- **If no response – Administer naloxone**
- **Recovery Position**
- **Call 911**



Why don't people get help?



- Drug addiction is a stigmatized problem
- Have to accept “I have a disorder”
- Affordability
- Fearful of withdrawal
- Do not know where to go
- Unsuccessful attempts at quitting
- May lose job, housing, & other security nets



JOSHUA GOTTLIEB

1988 - 2018

Addiction can happen to anyone – Fentanyl does not discriminate; it doesn't care who you are, it doesn't care what race you are, if your rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, or your religious beliefs.

Addiction is a treatable disease – Addiction is a disease, not a character flaw. Recovery from addiction is possible, but the stigma related to using drugs remains a significant barrier to getting help. Overcoming a substance use disorder is not as simple as resisting the temptation to take drugs through willpower alone. Recovery may involve medication to help with withdrawal. Some cases may require checking into a facility for treatment.

Relapsing is not a sign of failure – Relapse may happen. It may even occur years after not taking any substances. It can take five or six attempts before a person successfully maintains change, so reassure the person that relapse can be common. Recovery is not always a straight path forward, but a strong support system can help each person take steps towards recovery.

Reducing Stigma

Research demonstrates that stigma **damages the health and well-being of people with substance use disorder and interferes with the quality of care they receive in clinical settings.** Stigma toward people with substance use disorder can be seen at all levels of care within health care settings.

Stigma and Discrimination

- Although substance use disorders are chronic and treatable medical conditions, studies show people with these disorders still face discrimination and stigma (a set of negative attitudes and stereotypes) that can impact their health and well-being in numerous ways.
- There are safe, effective, and lifesaving tools available to help people struggling with substance use. However, stigma often factors into the reasons why people who need help do not seek care.
- Research shows the language people use can contribute to stigma and discrimination against people with substance use disorders, including by healthcare professionals.

As a society, we still keep addiction in the shadows, regarding it as something shameful, reflecting lack of character, weakness of will, or even conscious wrongdoing, not a medical issue.

Myth: Addiction is a moral failure.

Fact: Substance use disorder is a disease. With treatment, people can recover.

Myth: Words don't hurt with substance use disorder.

Fact: Language that judges or shames results in [worse outcomes](#) for patients. Stigmatizing language can even impact the care given by highly trained professionals.

Myth: People with substance use disorder should be ashamed of themselves.

Fact: They almost always are. As a result, they are less likely to get medical care, and less likely to confide in family members.

Myth Vs. Fact

HARM REDUCTION IS AN IMPERATIVE

Harm reduction saves lives and decreases potential harms associated with substance use. Tools and strategies that reduce harms include:

- naloxone and naloxone training
- syringe services programs
- access to fentanyl test strips
- overdose prevention centers
- removal of stigma and barriers to treatment and to medications for treatment

Naloxone legalization, 2016

In May 2016, HB 2355 passed which allows Arizona pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone without a prescription. It is listed under Arizona Revised Statutes § 32-1979 (2016)

Syringe access decriminalization, 2021

In 2021, Arizona decriminalized syringe access programs. SB 1250 allows syringe access programs to operate and protects volunteers and participants from being charged with paraphernalia for possessing injection equipment. It is listed under Arizona Revised Statutes 36-798.51 and 36-798.52

Fentanyl test strip decriminalization, 2021

Currently, in Arizona, products used to test drugs are illegal under our paraphernalia laws. In 2021, SB 1486 passed which changed the definition of paraphernalia to create an exception for fentanyl test strips. This law is listed under Arizona Revised Statutes 13-3415.



Naloxone Kits

Items included in kits

- Narcan X 2
- Rubber gloves
- Rescue breathing mask







motorola moto g stylus 5G - 2023



Stephanie Meyer



ANY QUESTIONS

Resources

Find a Narcan Distribution Site Near You NaloxoneAZ.com

Narcan Resources

Shot in the dark

Provides access to a variety of harm reduction resources to people using drugs sitdaz.org

Sonoran Prevention Works

Provides naloxone resources and information about other Arizona organizations that provide naloxone Spwaz.org 480-442-7086

Other Educational Resources

Drug Free Kids Arizona

Provides educational tools, information and resource drugfreekids.org 602-305-7126

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

Provides education and support to parents of addicted loved ones palgroup.org 480-300-4712

Thank You for your time and attention.

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Pinal County
Adult Probation

Evaluation

Please take a moment to complete the session evaluation. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

If you need a paper copy, please ask for one from a Tribal Law and Policy Institute staff member.

