

# FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

Knowledge and Tools to Save Lives



Fentanyl is a man-made opioid that's many times stronger than morphine or heroin. Because it is so strong and so addictive, it's being added to heroin, fake prescription pills, even stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine. The result is huge increases in overdoses, and sadly, more Tennesseans than ever dying. These deaths are preventable with knowledge and tools.

## FENTANYL IS

**50** TIMES STRONGER  
THAN HEROIN  
**100** TIMES STRONGER  
THAN MORPHINE

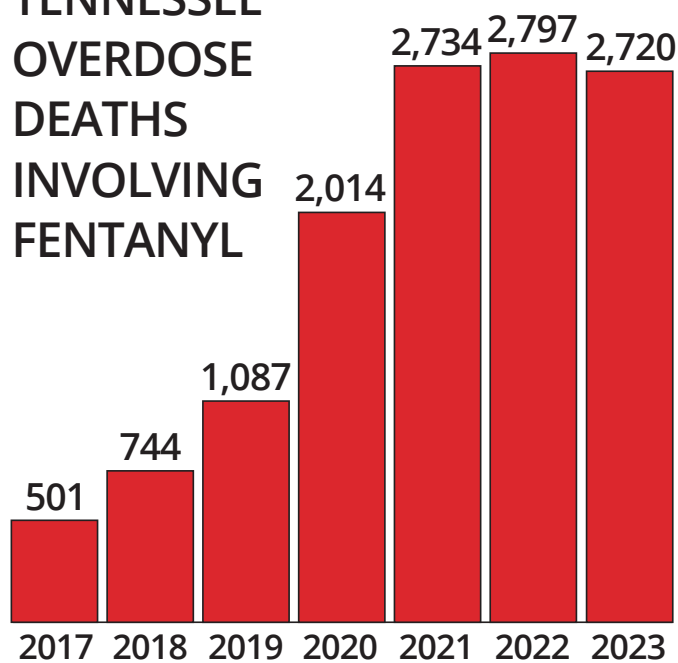
## HISTORY AND LEGAL USAGE

CREATED IN 1959. FENTANYL IS USED SAFELY DURING SURGERY OR TO TREAT CANCER PATIENTS. WHEN USED AS DIRECTED BY A DOCTOR, FENTANYL IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

## COMMON ILLICIT FORMS

ILLICIT FENTANYL IS SMUGGLED IN POWDER FORM. IT'S MIXED INTO SUBSTANCES INCLUDING HEROIN, COCAINE, METH, AND PRESSED INTO FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS.

## TENNESSEE OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING FENTANYL



TN Dept. of Health data shows illicit fentanyl drove the increase in overdose deaths and is keeping totals elevated.

## FENTANYL AND OVERDOSE

Because fentanyl is so strong, people who make illicit (illegal) drugs use fentanyl to make their drugs cheaper and more powerful. They do not have the special equipment that spread out the chemicals evenly. Each pill or powder is not the same. It does not take a lot of fentanyl to cause an overdose, especially for someone who does not usually use opioids.



Authentic Oxycodone 30 MG Tablets



Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

### Can you spot the difference?

Fentanyl has been found in heroin, cocaine, meth and pressed into fake prescription pills. While there are lots of stories of fentanyl found in vapes, there are very few cases in the US when a lab tested and confirmed that fentanyl was present.

TN

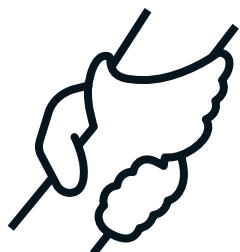
Department of  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

[TN.gov/behavioral-health/fentanyl](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/fentanyl)

**Anthony Jackson, Jr.**  
Director of Early Intervention  
and Prevention  
615-585-8956  
[Anthony.Jackson@tn.gov](mailto:Anthony.Jackson@tn.gov)

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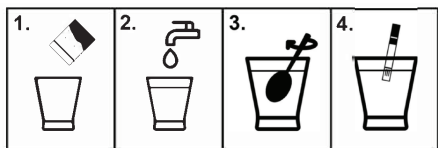


Overdoses happen when too many opioids attach to receptors in the brain and cause you to stop breathing. You can not overdose on fentanyl just by touching it. It has to get into your blood to get to your brain. If you think fentanyl may be present, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth so it cannot get into your bloodstream and travel to your brain. Wash your hands with soap and water. Do not use hand sanitizer. It does not remove the substance from your hands.

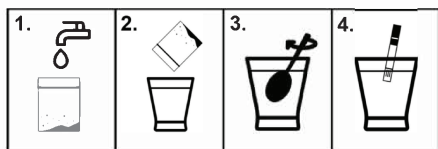
## FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

You can't tell if a drug has fentanyl in it by smelling, tasting, or looking at it. Fentanyl test strips are the best way to find out if fentanyl is in the substance. Test strips help prevent overdose and death, and they can lead to changes in a person's drug use. Engaging people, promoting health, and meeting people where they are has been proven to help people see their self-worth and seek recovery.

### MOST ACCURATE METHOD



### LESS ACCURATE METHOD



1. MIX a small sample with 2 spoonfuls of water. Use more water if you're testing meth.

2. DIP the strip into the water up to the MAX line and wait for the water to absorb up to where the FYL text starts. This will take about a minute.

3. DRY: Lay the strip flat and let it dry for at least 5 minutes.

### 1 LINE - FENTANYL DETECTED



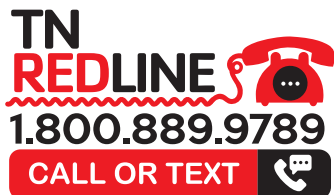
### 2 LINES - NO FENTANYL DETECTED



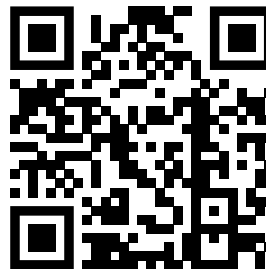
### 2 FAINT LINES - NO FENTANYL DETECTED



No test strip can detect all forms of fentanyl or test all of your substance. It is important to have naloxone (Narcan) nearby no matter the results. People who use fentanyl test strips accept all responsibility for any injury, or death that could occur after taking drugs, whether they have been tested or not tested for fentanyl.



Free and Confidential Referrals to  
Addiction Treatment and Other Services



Contact your local  
ROPS to schedule  
a training or get  
more info. Scan  
the code for  
details.



Department of  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

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**Cate Faulkner**  
Manager, State Opioid  
Response Prevention  
615-840-0382  
[Cate.Faulkner@tn.gov](mailto:Cate.Faulkner@tn.gov)