

# Get Informed, Stay Safe

## FENTANYL IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

More adolescents have overdosed and died in Los Angeles County than ever before because of a drug called **fentanyl** that is often mixed into counterfeit pills and other illicit drugs.

**Fentanyl** is an opioid drug that is stronger than other types of opioids – it is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine and exponentially stronger than other prescription opioids.

Fentanyl is colorless and odorless. It is **impossible** to know whether fentanyl has been mixed into a counterfeit pill or other drug without testing it. Even a few grains of fentanyl kill someone because fentanyl can cause someone to stop breathing.



**Protect yourself and others by informing yourself of the risks of overdose and how to respond if someone overdoses.**

### Get informed about fentanyl and overdose:

- 1) All pills acquired from a place other than a pharmacy or healthcare provider should be presumed to be a counterfeit pill that contains fentanyl.
- 2) Fentanyl can be mixed with:
  - a. Illicit substances (e.g., cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA [ecstasy], or heroin)
  - b. Counterfeit pills (e.g., prescription opioids like Percocet, Vicodin, or Oxycontin, or sedatives like Xanax purchased online or outside of pharmacy)
  - c. Any medication that is not prescribed through a pharmacy
- 3) People who sell drugs do not always know whether fentanyl is in the pills they are selling
- 4) People who use drugs should:
  - a. Keep naloxone (Narcan) nearby (see below for how to access naloxone)
  - b. Not use alone (having someone who can monitor for an overdose and administer naloxone (Narcan) or calling [NeverUseAlone](https://www.911.org) at 1-800-484-3731)
  - c. Test substances for fentanyl with a fentanyl testing strip, which can be purchased online through [BTNX](#), [Dose Test](#), [Dance Safe](#), [Wisebatch](#), or [TACO](#)
  - d. Fentanyl can be mixed into drugs purchased from unknown sources or received from people you know, such as your friends







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## Recognizing Overdose

## Responding to Overdose

<p>Someone might be overdosing if they have any of the following after using a drug:</p>	<p>If someone overdoses:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall asleep and cannot be woken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Call 911</b>, notify an adult, and ask for medical help for the person who overdosed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have slow and shallow breathing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer naloxone (Narcan): Watch this <a href="#">Video</a> to learn more and know you are protected by law from being arrested if you administer naloxone in an emergency situation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choke or make gurgling sounds</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a limp body or discolored &amp; cold skin</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the person awake and breathing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pupils in their eyes become small and constricted.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.</li> <li>• Do not leave the person alone until help arrives.</li> </ul> 

## Where to get naloxone (Narcan)?

Anyone can ask their healthcare provider for a prescription for naloxone. Some schools have naloxone to rescue someone who overdoses on campus. Ask your teacher or other school staff where on-campus naloxone can be found. More about obtaining naloxone is available here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/overdose-prevention.htm>



## Help is available

- 1) Please reach out for help to your counselor, pediatrician, therapist, or parents if you are using or thinking about using drugs. You can also receive help and a prescription of naloxone without your parents knowing.
- 2) [RecoverLA](#) is mobile-friendly and has information about substance use and how to get help.
- 3) The [Substance Abuse Services Telephone Hotline](#) 1-844-804-7500 is open 24/7 and will assist eligible Los Angeles residents with finding substance use disorder treatment.
- 4) The [Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health](#) has a 24/7 hotline that links Los Angeles residents of all ages to help with their mental health: 1-800 854-7771.

