

# Where Are We Now?



Drug Enforcement Administration  
Los Angeles Field Division

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# Overview

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- Los Angeles Statistics
- Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills
- Social Media and Counterfeit Pills
- Methamphetamine
- DEA Resources



# Los Angeles County – Drug-caused Deaths

## 2018

All drug-caused deaths: 1,266

Those involving **opioids**: 746  
(59% of total)

Those involving **fentanyl**: 306  
(24% of total)

Those involving  
**methamphetamine**: 691 (55%  
of total)

## 2019

All drug-caused deaths: 1,442

Those involving **opioids**: 841  
(58% of total)

Those involving **fentanyl**: 473  
(33% of total)

Those involving  
**methamphetamine**: 752 (52%  
of total)

## 2020

All drug-caused deaths: 2,357

Those involving **opioids**: 1,567  
(67% of total)

Those involving **fentanyl**:  
1,173 (50% of total)

Those involving  
**methamphetamine**: 1,358  
(58% of total)

The 2,357 drug-caused deaths in 2020 represented an 86 percent increase from the 1,266 in 2018.

The first 5 months of 2021 there were 1,004 drug-caused deaths. 567 of these or nearly 57 % involved fentanyl

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# **Fentanyl / Counterfeit Pills**

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# **Fentanyl / Counterfeit Pills**

**Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent. It is a schedule II prescription drug, and it is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or to manage pain after surgery. However illicit fentanyl and its analogues are extremely dangerous with high abuse potential and severe adverse effects including coma and death.**

**It is manufactured in China and recently, more so in Mexico.**

**Illicit fentanyl is used as adulterants in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and as a heroin substitute sold to unaware users.**

**Illicit fentanyl is also used to produce counterfeit pills (fentanyl-laced pills that mimic the color, size and markings of legitimate pharmaceutical pills).**



## Fentanyl / Counterfeit Pills

Counterfeit pills are fake medications. They may contain fentanyl or methamphetamine and are extremely dangerous because they often appear identical to legitimate prescription pills.



*Oxycodone: Authentic (left) and counterfeit (right)*

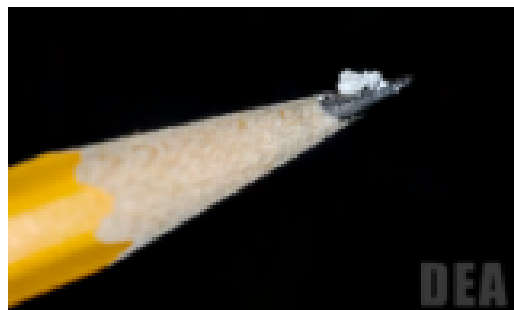


## Fentanyl / Counterfeit Pills



### What are their effects on the body?

Counterfeit pills that contain fentanyl can be deadly. A lethal dose of fentanyl is about two milligrams, equivalent in size to a few grains of salt.



*A lethal dose of fentanyl*



### What are the overdose effects?

Fentanyl overdose may result in changes in pupil size, cold and clammy skin, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death. Methamphetamine overdose may result in death from stroke, heart attack, or multiple organ problems caused by overheating. The best way to avoid counterfeit medication is to take only medications prescribed by a licensed medical professional and dispensed by a registered pharmacist.



# Fentanyl / Counterfeit Pills





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# Social Media and Counterfeit Pills

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# Social Media and Counterfeit Pills



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# Methamphetamine

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# Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine seizures are increasing across the United States
- Mexico-based TCOs are primary producers
- Domestic clan lab seizures are decreasing





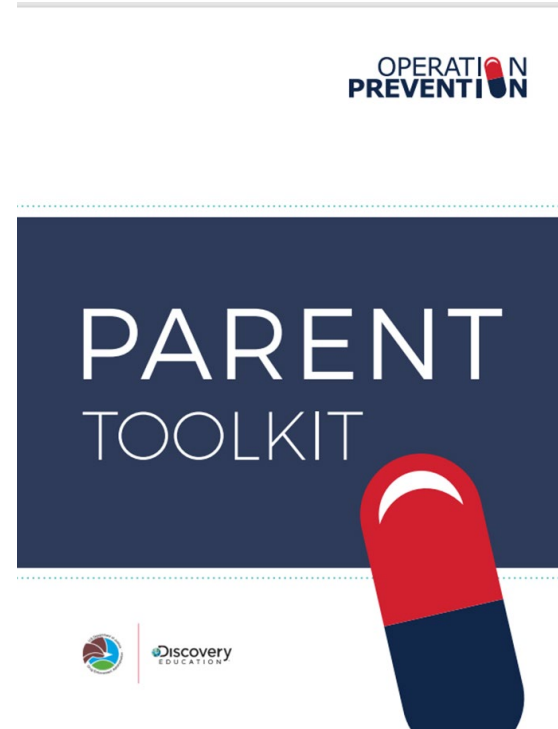
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# DEA Resources

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## DEA Resources





## Operation Prevention

no-cost online tools that support every member of the community with the power of prevention.

DEA partnership with Discovery Channel

Workplace Resources

Parent Resources

School Resources

### Discover • Connect • Prevent



This NO-COST, standards-aligned program for young people ages 8-18 is available in every school, home, and state in the nation to kickstart lifesaving actions TODAY.

Created in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Discovery Education, **Operation Prevention** is an award-winning educational program dedicated to preventing substance misuse in schools, workplaces, and communities nationwide.



Resources available on both English & Spanish websites



#### School Resources

A variety of digital lesson plans, activities, and three Virtual Field Trips help spark lively discussions about opioid misuse. Students learn the importance of staying safe, making healthy decisions, and the devastating effects substance misuse can have on their lives and communities.



#### Self-Paced Module

*The Science of Addiction: The Stories of Teens* tells the stories of real teens who share their firsthand experiences of how opioid misuse negatively impacted their futures and families. Students will build essential strategies for saying "No."



#### Parent Toolkit

Parents can join the conversation with a family discussion guide, featuring info on the warning signs of opioid misuse. A guide to prevention and intervention encourages families to take action NOW.



#### Multi-Drug Topic Series

A Multi-Drug Exploratory uses science-based animated videos to teach students about the most prevalent forms of substance misuse, including an Educator Guide to tie the videos together.



#### Workplace Resources

Educators, administrators, and other professionals can lead the way to stronger schools and communities by addressing opioid misuse in the workplace with a series of self-guided resources.



#### Culture-Based Resources

The wisdom of Native practices of wellness combined with the insights of modern science help empower Native and non-Native students to avoid the dangers of substance misuse.

Visit [OperationPrevention.com](https://www.OperationPrevention.com) to access additional no-cost resources.

Join the Conversation  
@DEAHQ @DiscoveryEd  
#OperationPrevention





## DEA National Rx Take Back

October 23, 2021 10:00 am - 2pm

In LA County : approximately 21 collection sites

Collection will be shared by next week

Collection Locator will be active October 1

[Takebackday.DEA.gov](https://Takebackday.DEA.gov)







## Red Ribbon Week



LIVING DRUG FREE

**RED  
RIBBON  
WEEK**

**OCTOBER 23-31**

REMEMBERING  
SPECIAL AGENT

ENRIQUE "KIKI" CAMARENA

### What is Red Ribbon Week?

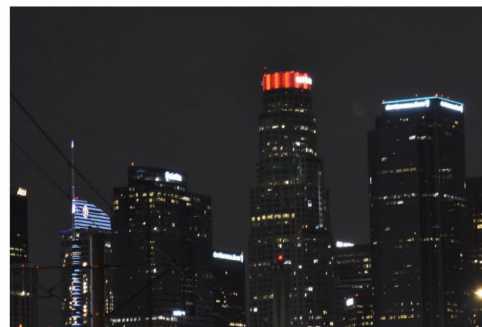
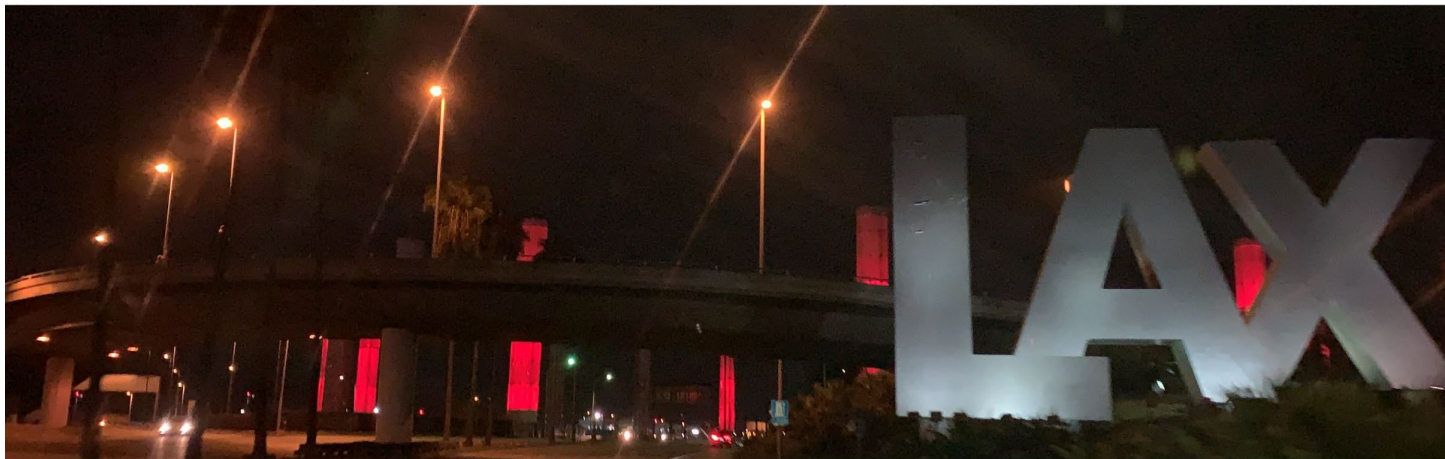
Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug abuse prevention awareness program.

Red Ribbon Week started after the death of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who in 1985 was brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico

After Kiki's death, people started wearing red ribbons to honor his sacrifice. Today, millions of people celebrate Red Ribbon Week by wearing red ribbons, participating in community antidrug events, and pledging to live drug-free lives.

### CELEBRATE RED RIBBON WEEK

- Learn about the destructive effects of drug abuse and opioid misuse.
- Educate your family members and friends.
- Take action:
  - Sponsor an anti-drug poster and essay contest
  - Create an anti-drug PSA
  - Host a community drug awareness event
  - Decorate or light up buildings and national monuments in red
  - Take the pledge and promote living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle



OPERATION  
**ENGAGE**







## DEA Websites

[DEA.gov](https://www.dea.gov)

[TakeBackDay.DEA.gov](https://www.takebackday.dea.gov)

[Justthinktwice.gov](https://www.justthinktwice.gov)

[GetSmartAboutDrugs.gov](https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov)

[OperationPrevention.com](https://www.operationprevention.com)



Twitter: DEA Los Angeles





# Questions?

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