

## Children's Home of York Prevention Education

### -Fentanyl Fact Sheet-

#### What is it?



Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent. The drug fentanyl falls in the opioid category and it is sometimes prescribed legally by a doctor as well as used and created illegally. Much like morphine, it is a medication that is typically used to treat patients with severe pain. In its prescription form, fentanyl is known by such names as: Actiq, Duragesic, and Sublimaze. When prescribed by a doctor, fentanyl can be given as a shot, a patch that is put on a person's skin, or as lozenges. In its illegal form, fentanyl is known by such names as: Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Jackpot, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash. It is sold illegally as a powder, dropped onto blotter paper, put in eye droppers and nasal sprays, or made into pills that look like other prescription opioids. Dangerously often fentanyl is sold mixed in with other drugs such as: heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA; often without the knowledge of the user, which can lead to a deadly overdose due to high potency of fentanyl.



#### Did you know?

-Overdose deaths involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs have continued to rise, topping over 31,000 as recently as 2018

-Fentanyl has many drugs which are chemically similar to it, these are known as fentanyl analogs

-Some commonly abused fentanyl analogs are acetylfentanyl, furanylfentanyl, and carfentanil

-Some fentanyl analogs are even more potent than fentanyl, such as carfentanil which is approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine

-The overdose death rate for fentanyl and its' analogs has increased by 1,125% from 2011 to 2017

## Solutions for Parents



To help prevent heroin and fentanyl use among the youth in your life, try some of these solutions:

- Stay informed about fentanyl, its analogs and other drug trends, you can also educate yourself by using this sheet and by visiting the websites listed on our drug and alcohol resource guide.
- Talk to your child and teen about the dangers of fentanyl and its' analogs, and link this discussion into your talk about heroin and prescription opioids as these types of drugs often go hand and hand
- Safe storage of prescription opioids should also be a part of preventing future fentanyl use, because in the majority of cases heroin and fentanyl use starts with prescription opioid abuse
  - If you have opioids in your household whether for short or long term pain management remember to store them safely and carefully, like in a locked medicine cabinet or box
  - If you were prescribed an opioid and no longer need the medication remember to dispose of it properly at a medication disposal site. These sites are often located at police stations, health care facilities, and pharmacies.



## Our Resources

Children's Home of York provides several free prevention programs to schools and youth in York County communities that help children and their families learn strategies to avoid using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. To request information or set up a free program in your school and community please call or email Cecilia Keesey, Director of Prevention at (717) 755-1033 ext. 1257 or ckeesey@choyork.org.

-Ask About Our New Free Virtual Prevention Programming Options-

## Looking for More?



We hope this guide has helped you in your journey towards drug and alcohol education for yourself and your family. Remember research, education and support are key components to navigating the world of drug and alcohol prevention and treatment. If you want more information about fentanyl for you or your family check out our comprehensive drug and alcohol resource guide. This guide includes countless website links, hotline phone numbers, and even local in-person resources for York County.