

NALOXONE & FENTANYL

A fentanyl overdose **may** take additional doses of naloxone to reverse. An overdose depends on many factors, and a person's **tolerance** to opioids plays an important role.

Naloxone used on a fentanyl overdose works at the same speed as it would with other opioids. It will still take about **two minutes** for a dose of naloxone to work. Give another dose if you see no change after two minutes!



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ALL ABOUT *FENTANYL*

FACT SHEET

FENTANYL IS...

an “**opioid**”. Other opioids include heroin and certain prescription painkillers like morphine.

Fentanyl is sometimes **prescribed** and given to people in pain, and is even used during surgeries by some doctors. **Street-manufactured** fentanyl has become common in recent years, and is now a central figure in the opioid epidemic.

FENTANYL VS. OTHER OPIOIDS



Fentanyl is different from other opioids because...

It is **much stronger** than other opioids (can be **50+ times** stronger)

A dose of fentanyl is **harder to measure** because of its potency, making it more likely to cause an overdose

Carfentanyl, another opioid, isn't made for human use and is much stronger than fentanyl. Carfentanyl **isn't common on the West Coast**, but it's possible that **this could change** in the future.

COMMON MYTHS



"Naloxone doesn't work for fentanyl!"

Naloxone works on **all** opioids, including fentanyl!



"Fentanyl is purposely put in other street drugs to kill people"

Cross-contamination is often just an **accident in the packaging process**, where small amounts are mixed in other drugs -- but because of how strong fentanyl is, trace amounts can be enough to cause overdose for unsuspecting people.



"Fentanyl will always cause an overdose"

Fentanyl **can** cause an overdose more than other opioids simply because it is much more potent. Be sure to **always have naloxone on hand**, and know how to use it to keep you and your community safe!

