

Protecting Our Youth

SCHOOL-BASED RESPONSES TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS

APRIL 18, 2024
AMON CARTER CENTER



Two mg. of fentanyl, the amount on the tip of this pencil, can be enough to kill.

**ONE
PILL CAN
KILL**

SEPT. 2021

2 of 5

laced with fentanyl

NOV. 2022

6 of 10

laced with fentanyl

SEPT. 2023

7 of 10

laced with fentanyl

If a packet of sugar contained fentanyl (instead of sugar), there would be enough to kill over 500 people.



DEA Fentanyl Seizures

In 2023, the DEA seized more than 79.5 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder.

This amount is equivalent to more than 376.7 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

So far in 2024, fentanyl seizures represent over 90.9 million

deadly doses with

16,900,000 fentanyl-laced fake pills and 1,767 pounds of fentanyl powder.



Waves of the Opioid Epidemic



2000s

RX opioids, including natural, semi-synthetic and methadone, are illegally obtained

2010

Heroin overtakes the opioid crisis



2013

Synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are being illicitly manufactured

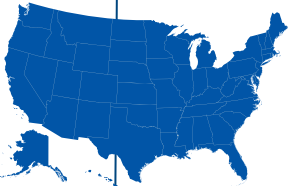
2018

Fentanyl-laced cocaine and meth become the drugs of choice



"One American dies of a drug overdose nearly every five minutes around the clock—that's unacceptable," said Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, the leader of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). "Let's stop it."

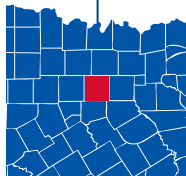
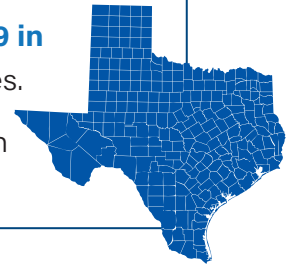
Scope of the Issue



In 2023, the overdose death rate in **America** topped **112,000** in a 12-month period for the first time, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec 28, 2023), with young people and people of color among the hardest hit. Drug policy experts, and people living with addiction, say the magnitude of this calamity now eclipses every previous drug epidemic, from crack cocaine in the 1980s to the prescription opioid crisis of the 2000s.

In **Texas**, overdose deaths involving fentanyl rose from **891 in 2020 to 2,189 in 2022**, according to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

This represents an **89% percent increase** in fentanyl-related fatalities, with provisional data showing 1,672 deaths in 2021 as compared to 883 in 2020.



In **2022**, there were **224 deaths** in the Tarrant County area and over 70,000 nationwide due to fentanyl overdoses. Last year in Tarrant County, there were nearly **2,500 overdoses reported**, many from fentanyl. More than **300 people died** as a result.

Each week in 2022, approximately 22 high school students, the size of an average classroom,

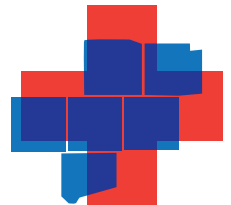


died of fentanyl-laced drug overdoses in the U.S.,

according to data from the New England Journal of Medicine.

Fentanyl is so deadly **it often kills kids experimenting with drugs for the first time**. Between July 2019 and December 2021, according to the CDC, 86% of adolescents who died of a fentanyl overdose had never previously experienced a drug overdose.

Among Collin, Denton, Parker, Tarrant, Dallas and Johnson counties, there were over **12,000** emergency department (ED) visits for drug-related poisonings (overdoses) among **residents aged 0-17 years** during the 5-year time period, 2019-2023. This equates to **0.35% of all ED visits** (any admit reason) for this population during 2019-2023. Of these ED visits, **65% were residents of Dallas and Tarrant Counties**. Most of these ED visits occurred among females (58%) and residents aged 15-17 years (40%).



(Data Source: Syndromic Surveillance data from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Data provided by: Office of Health Informatics, Tarrant County Public Health)



31% of high school seniors indicate misusing prescription drugs at least once.



90% of addictions start in the teenage years.



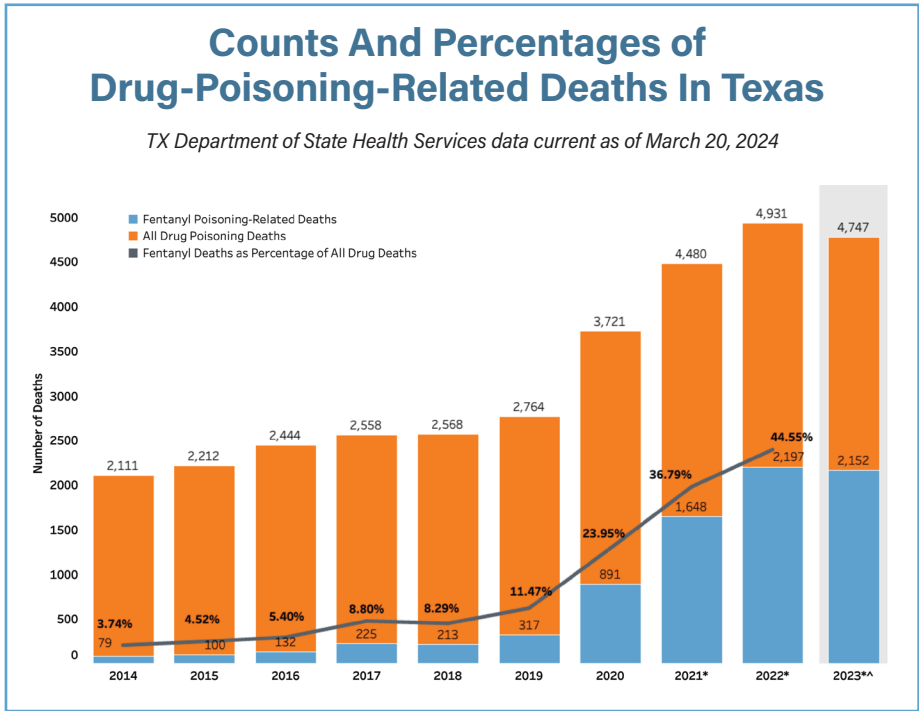
46% of former high school athletes have lifetime opioid use, significantly higher than any other student population.



The laboratory, Millennium Health, has stated that **60%** of patients whose urine samples contained fentanyl last year also tested positive for methamphetamine. Meth, a highly addictive drug, often in powder form, poses several serious cardiovascular and psychiatric risks; and was found in 60% of fentanyl-positive tests last year. This represents an **875% increase since 2015**.

Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin.

It's alarming to note that as many as **one in eight children** in the United States lives with a caregiver who has a substance use disorder, significantly increasing the child's risk of exposure, whether purposeful or accidental. Dr. Samuel Selby, Dr. Priya Bui, Jared Ivan and Ryan White from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention observed a nationwide **109% increase** in pediatric opioid overdoses from 2019 to 2021.



*Of all deaths related to opioid overdose among those aged 0 to 17 in 2020, a **staggering 92 percent** were due to the consumption of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.*

Suicidal ideation injury epidemiology reported in 2021 that "non-medical use of prescription opioids (NMUPO) has been reported by 5% to 20% of adolescents and is associated with a **two-fold increase in suicidal behaviors** among adolescents."



Bystander Data



Data shows that two-thirds of adolescent, drug-poisoning deaths occurred with a potential bystander nearby, but naloxone was not administered.

Studies also show that naloxone access can reduce overdose death rates, that its availability does not lead to increases in youth drug use, and that it causes no harm if used on a person who is not overdosing on opioids.

Texas State Legislature's 2021 Jessica Sosa Act, gives some people a defense to certain drug charges that result from a call to 911 emergency services to report a suspected overdose. They can be the victim themselves (when someone else called for help) or a bystander, provided they were the first to call 911, the situation was an emergency and they stayed with the victim and co-operated with the police.

Senate Bill 1462 (2015) protects both the administration or non-administration of Naloxone during an overdose crisis.



Naloxone was patented in 1961 and was approved for opioid use disorder treatment in the United States in 1971. It is available today in nasal sprays, injections and sublingual tablets. It is marketed under six different brands.

Narcan® - Kloxxado® - Evzio® - Zimhi® - Zubsolv® - Bunavail®

A Naloxone alternative, Nalmefene, is a nasal spray specifically formulated for synthetic opioids under the brand name **OPVEE®**.

Review. Respond. Report.







HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

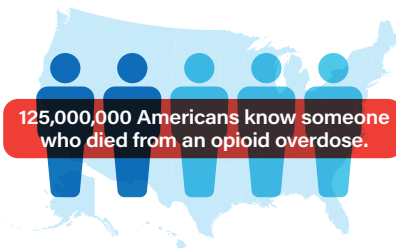
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- ❗ Unresponsive
- ❗ Lips and nails are blue
- ❗ Cold and clammy
- ❗ Irregular breathing
- ❗ Very small pupils
- ❗ Choking or gurgling

HOW TO REVERSE AN OVERDOSE

Immediate Action Saves Lives! Good Samaritan Laws protect you when you are trying to help someone in need.

-  **Call 911 immediately**
 You or someone nearby must call 911 and report that you are supporting a possible overdose.
-  **Administer CPR**
 - Tilt the victim's head back to ensure their airway is open.
 - Apply chest compressions.
-  **Place them on their side**
 Known as the "recovery position," roll the victim onto their side once they are responding to treatment.
-  **Administer Naloxone**
 - Announce that you are going to give the victim Naloxone, even if they are non-responsive.
 - Spray Naloxone in their nose.
-  **Give Naloxone again**
 Give additional Naloxone if the person does not regain breathing or color, and if no changes occur, continue chest compressions until help arrives.
-  **Remain calm**
 If the victim is revived, remain calm and compassionate and encourage them to accept help and remain where they are or stay in a public location.



A survey by the nonprofit think tank RAND Corporation found that more than 40% of American adults know someone who died from an overdose, and close to one-third of those report that death disrupted their lives. This amounts to an estimated 125 million Americans.

Since 2000, 1.1 million people have fatally overdosed in the United States.

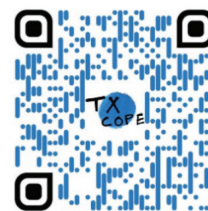


TX COPE | Together, we can save lives.

Each year, opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence account for \$35 billion in health care costs. Patients who experienced an opioid overdose accounted for \$1.94 billion in annual hospital costs and \$14.8 billion in criminal justice costs. Each dollar invested in addiction treatment reduces drug-related crime, theft, and criminal justice costs by \$92 billion in lost productivity. The losses stem from premature death due to overdose, "productive hours" lost to OUD, and opioid-related incarceration. (Source: Pew Research Center, 2021.)

How to Report an Overdose on TxCOPE

- 1 Visit txcope.org on any web browser or download the app from the Apple or Google Play Store.
- 2 Click on the "Report Overdose" button.
- 3 Fill out the short, easy and anonymous overdose report form—only six questions required!
- 4 Click "Submit" to help save lives.



Record the Overdose. Use this QR code to open TXCOPE now.



Change is created by ChallengeSM

