



Protecting Our Youth

SCHOOL-BASED RESPONSES TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Fentanyl Awareness: A DEA Laboratory Perspective-

B. Jamie Vasquez

Associate Laboratory Director

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: The opioid overdose epidemic is one of our nation's most pervasive drug issues. This session will 1) provide insight on the nationwide problem involving illicitly manufactured Fentanyl and the emerging drug trends of xylazine and the drug class nitazenes are adding to the risk of possible overdose and poisoning; 2) identify how the DEA responds to the fentanyl epidemic; and 3) discuss the various DEA resources for the community.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the emerging trends of fentanyl laced stimulants which are increasing overdose deaths in the United States.
- Become familiar with xylazine and the new class of drugs called nitazenes and recognize the signs and symptoms of these drugs and their role in overdose deaths.

The new "f" word - fentanyl

**Eduardo Chavez, BSFS
Special Agent in Charge- DEA**

Workshop Description: Illicit fentanyl is becoming more available in schools across the United States, including Texas. School administrators and community partners must confront the dangers of fentanyl with students overdosing on campus to getting arrested, not to mention the community pressure when either happens. DEA SAC Chávez will provide a crash-course on fentanyl, its dangers, and provide facts to keep students and school staff informed and safe.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and Understand the Various DEA resources for schools, educators, parents and students.
- Understand the role Schools & Communities play in education and prevention.

From Awareness to Action

Becky Tinney, LMSW, LCDC, CPS
Recovery Resource Council

Workshop description: The rise in overdose incidents, particularly involving opioids like fentanyl, underscores the critical need for schools to be prepared to respond effectively. This workshop will provide educators, administrators, counselors, school nurses, and other school personnel information on Tarrant County's Overdose Response Team (ORT) and explore harm reduction principles and strategies to minimize the risks associated with substance use among students.

Learning Objectives:

- Define harm reduction strategies in preventing deaths among youth and young adults amidst the Fentanyl epidemic.
- Participants will be able to identify services available post overdose to families and the community.

The Fentanyl Epidemic: What Caregivers and Youth Should Know

Dr. Artee Ghandi, MD
Cook Children's

Workshop description: Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) has emerged as a grave public health concern, with devastating consequences for adolescents across communities. This workshop will delve into the multifaceted impact of IMF on the adolescent population, equipping educators, counselors, school nurses and community stakeholders with the knowledge and strategies needed to address this pressing issue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define the impact of opioid use in the adolescent population.
- Define the necessity of naloxone availability and use in preventing fentanyl deaths.

Grief and Loss in the Fentanyl Epidemic

Dr. Nici Richardson- McFarland Ph.D., LPC, MABC, BCC, BC-TMH, CCH
Crown of Hope Counseling

Workshop description: Loss due to fentanyl poisoning can be a uniquely challenging experience, often accompanied by feelings of shame, stigma, and isolation. When students in our school communities face this type of loss, it's essential for educators, counselors, and school nurses to understand and respond to their students grief with empathy and support. This workshop will explore disenfranchised grief resulting from fentanyl poisoning loss and provide strategies for schools to create a more compassionate and inclusive environment for grieving students.

Learning Objectives:

- Define disenfranchised grief and its manifestations in the context of fentanyl poisoning loss.
- Recognize the unique challenges faced by individuals grieving a loss due to fentanyl poisoning, including societal stigma and shame.
- Learn how to recognize signs of grief and distress in students following a fentanyl poisoning loss.
- Understand the importance of creating a safe space for students to express their emotions and seek support.

School-based responses to fentanyl overdoses

Panel Presentation: Tiffany Turner, LPC-S, MS
Angela Lawrence, Ph.D., LMSW
Kevin McKinney, MA, LCDC
Michelle Broadwater, LMSW

In recent years, the rise of illicitly manufactured fentanyl has become an alarming epidemic, particularly among adolescents and young adults. School counselors, staff, and nurses play a crucial role in addressing this crisis within the student community. This workshop aims to equip school-based professionals with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to effectively identify, prevent, and respond to fentanyl poisoning among students.

Learning Objectives:

- Exploring the underlying factors contributing to fentanyl abuse in the student population.
- Implement proactive measures to prevent fentanyl use among students.
- Develop protocols for responding to suspected fentanyl poisoning in school settings.