**What is Fentanyl?**

Fentanyl is a synthetic [opioid](https://drugabusestatistics.org/opioid-epidemic/), meaning it is not derived from the opium poppy plant. Instead, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, such as methadone, are made entirely in laboratories.

* Fentanyl is a semi-synthetic opioid.
* Semi-synthetic opioids are made with natural opium involved in synthesis.
* Morphine, codeine, and heroin are semi-synthetics.
* Prescription fentanyl has been available since 1968.
* Fentanyl has been prescribed to treat children as young as 2 years old.
* Illegal manufacture and distribution of fentanyl began no later than 1979.
* Many analogs are available, all classified under the umbrella term “fentanyls”.
* One analog, carfentanil, is up to 10,000-times more potent than morphine.
* These analogs share many characteristics, including:
	+ *Profound physical effects.*Physical impact includes drowsiness, nausea/vomiting, urinary retention, and pupillary constriction. Severe or prolonged reaction may require medical attention.
	+ *Highly addictive.*The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has classified fentanyl as a schedule II controlled substance, meaning it has a high potential for abuse, as well as severe physiological and psychological dependence.
	+ *Available in many forms.*Once solely prepared for injection, fentanyl preparations can now be taken orally (pill, tablet, film, blotter paper, etc.), smoked, snorted or sniffed, and transdermal patch.
	+ *Legally prescribed for pain.*Fentanyls are most often prescribed in conjunction with other analgesics to ease pain in cancer patients; transdermal patches are typically prescribed to patients who require a steady regimen of opioids to manage severe and/or chronic pain.
	+ *High similar to morphine.*Fentanyl’s effects are comparable to other opioid analgesics, such as morphine. Users experience relaxation, euphoria, and confusion.
* Fentanyl is the most powerful opioid, 50 times more powerful than heroin, and is flooding our area from Mexico. The amount to kill is like a few grains of sand. One pill can kill, and one dose can cause addiction. The number one killer of Americans aged 18-45 is fentanyl. There were79,000 overdose deaths in 2021. It can take up to 24 months to get impulses out of brain after stopping taking. 50% of teenagers have used a drug at least once.

 Most people are vaguely aware of what fentanyl is, but

 hard to overstate just how lethal it is compared to other

 drugs-and how easy it is to accidently consume it and become addicted. One time use can cause addiction and a lot of drug dealers are now lacing other drugs with fentanyl.