

Fentanyl

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE POISONED DRUG SUPPLY CRISIS IN THE U.S.

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Because it is so potent, even a small amount can cause a fatal overdose. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S. Over 150 people die every day across the U.S. from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.



ISN'T FENTANYL JUST A PAIN MEDICINE?

Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer. While prescription opioids and heroin once drove this epidemic, illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have increasingly taken over as the primary killer.



WHAT IS ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL?

Most of the opioid related overdose deaths in the US resulted from illegally manufactured fentanyl. This fentanyl is readily available on the drug market in different forms including liquid and powder. The high potency of fentanyl has made it a commonly used drug, and it is often added to other illicit drugs. Other street drugs including meth, ecstasy, cocaine, and various pills have been found to have been laced with or contaminated with fentanyl.



WHY IS FENTANYL SO DANGEROUS?

When someone takes fentanyl, the drug binds to receptors inside the brain to release endorphins and block pain. Fentanyl can also mix up brain signals that control breathing causing a person to breath very slowly or stop breathing completely. The lack of oxygen to the brain can cause the person experiencing a fentanyl overdose to slip into a coma, it can cause irreparable brain damage, and if not treated in time, even death.



CAN AN OVERDOSE BE REVERSED?

YES!

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids. Naloxone counteracts all opioids including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications.

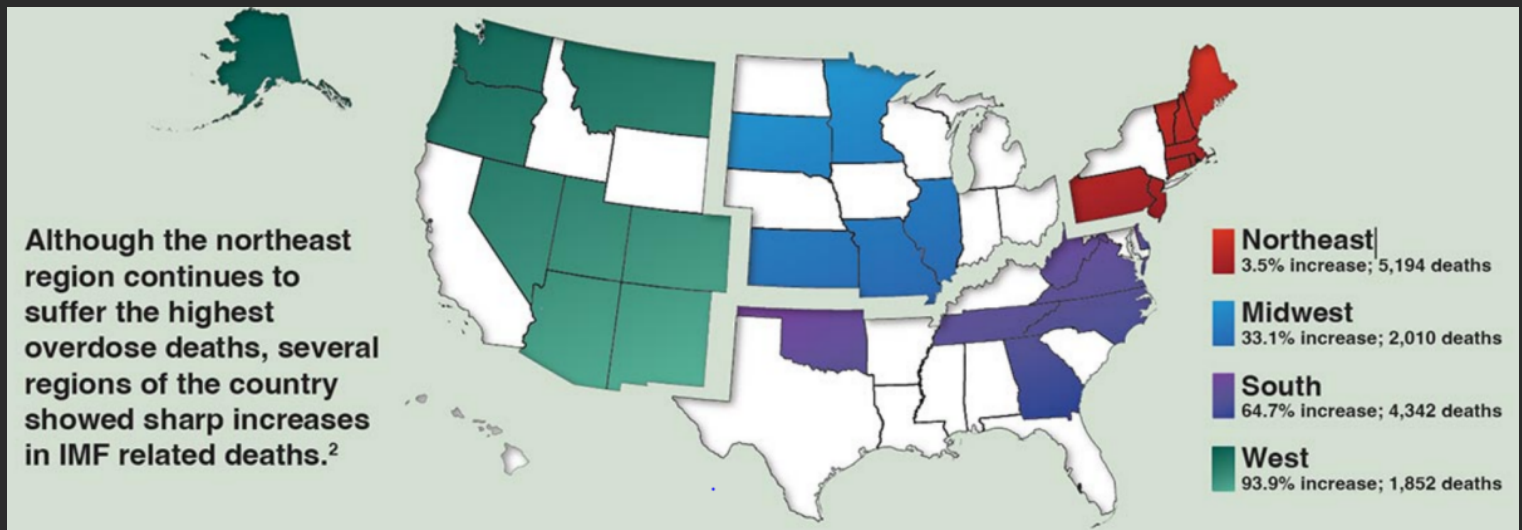
Response time is what is most important, especially with fentanyl.

TO SCHEDULE AN OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION TRAINING, PLEASE EMAIL: NOMODEATHS@MIMH.EDU

TO REQUEST NALOXONE, PLEASE VISIT: GETMONALOXONE.COM

Fentanyl in Missouri

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE POISONED DRUG SUPPLY CRISIS IN MISSOURI



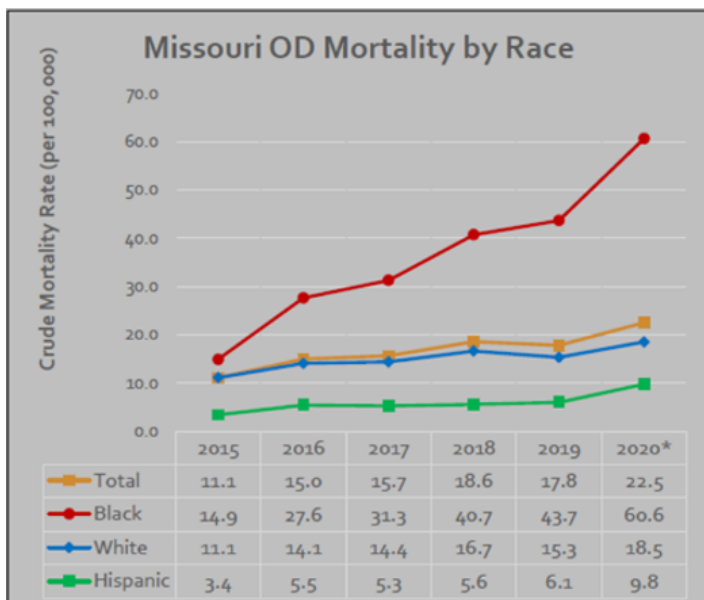
MISSOURI OPIOID DATA

In 2021, there were 1,581 Missourians who lost their lives due to an opioid overdose. That means that 1 out of 47 deaths statewide was attributed to an opioid-involved overdose.

MISSOURI RESIDENT NON-HEROIN OPIOID DATA

Non-Heroin deaths, including fentanyl, has continually increased in Missouri.	2017	-	653
	2018	-	781
	2019	-	870
	2020	-	1,230
	2021	-	1,493

OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS BY RACE

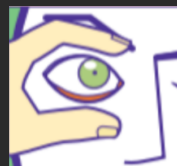


Black, non-Hispanic individuals in Missouri are twice as likely to die from an opioid overdose as White, Non-Hispanic individuals.

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE AN OPIOID OVERDOSE?



DOES NOT RESPOND TO SHAKING



PIN-POINT PUPILS



SHALLOW BREATHING OR GURGLING SOUNDS



LIPS OR FINGERNAIL BLUE OR GRAY -- FACE PALE OR CLAMMY

REVERSE AN OVERDOSE WITH ABC

A -- ADMINISTER NALOXONE

B -- BEGIN RESCUE BREATHING
(1 breath every 5 seconds)

C -- CALL 911



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE

FOR MORE INFO ON THE FENTANYL DRUG POISONING CRISIS IN MISSOURI AND TO LOCATE RESOURCES, VISIT:

MIMHADDISCI.ORG

UMSL MIMH
Missouri Institute of Mental Health

