

# Understanding the Signs and Symptoms of Opioid Use



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All Elementary Schools

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# Welcome – thanks for joining us today.

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# AGENDA

- What is Fentanyl?
- What is illicit Fentanyl?
- Fentanyl versus Heroin
- Counterfeit pills
- Availability
- Utilization
- Cross contamination
- The National overdose epidemic
- Naloxone



Fentanyl

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# What is Legal Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl was first developed in 1959 and introduced in the 1960s as an intravenous anesthetic. It is legally manufactured and distributed in the United States.
- Powerful synthetic opioid that is 50-100 times more potent than morphine.
- It is used to treat patients who have severe pain or those who have chronic pain who have become physically tolerant of opioids.
- Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths
- Should be prescribed by a doctor
- Fentanyl pharmaceutical products are currently available in the following dosage forms: oral transmucosal lozenges commonly referred to as fentanyl “lollipops” (Actiq®), effervescent buccal tablets (Fentora®), sublingual tablets (Abstral®), sublingual sprays (Subsys®), nasal sprays (Lazanda®), transdermal patches (Duragesic®), and injectable formulations.



# What is Legal Fentanyl Commonly Used for?

- When prescribed by a doctor, it can be given as a shot, patch, pill or a lozenge.
- May be prescribed by a doctor for the pain associated with advanced cancer, chronic pain, or following surgery.
- May also be used as an anesthetic.



# What is Illicit Fentanyl?

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- Illicit Fentanyl is improperly manufactured and available on the drug market in different forms, including liquid and powder.
- Commonly mixed with drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine and made into pills that are made to resemble other prescription opioids, such as Percocet 30 milligram and Oxycodone
- Illicit Fentanyl is extremely dangerous, and people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl.
- In its liquid form, it can be found in nasal sprays, eye drops, and dropped onto paper or small candies.





Fentanyl  
versus Heroin

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# Fentanyl versus Heroin

## FENTANYL

- A synthetic (manmade) opioid that is like morphine; however, it is 50-100 times more potent than morphine.
- The chemical structure of fentanyl is slightly different from that of heroin because it is synthesized as a powerful analgesic (pain reliever), and it is still used medically to treat severe pain following surgery or for chronic pain in people who are opioid-tolerant, which means that other painkillers aren't as effective.
- It is classified as a Schedule II substance due to its medicinal purposes.

## HEROIN

- Derived from morphine, which is a natural substance that is removed from the seed of the opium poppy plant.
- Distributed as a white or brown powder, or as a black, tacky substance known as "black tar" heroin.
- It is classified as a Schedule I, illegal drug with no accepted medicinal uses in the United States.
- It is typically injected, smoked, or snorted.



# Counterfeit Pills

- Counterfeit pills are fake medications that have different ingredients than the actual medication. They may contain no active ingredient, the wrong active ingredient, or have the right ingredient but in an incorrect quantity.
- Counterfeit pills may contain lethal amounts of fentanyl or methamphetamine and are extremely dangerous because they often appear identical to legitimate prescription pills, and the user is likely unaware of how lethal they can be
- The majority of counterfeit drug production occurs in other countries, mainly China, Mexico, and India.
- Furthermore, an increasing number of pills laced with fentanyl are being produced in the U.S. Mexican and domestic drug trafficking organizations operating in the U.S. produce counterfeit pills with pre-made chemicals and drugs from China and/or Mexico.
- Counterfeit pain and anxiety medications sold on the street are being laced with fentanyl,
- Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl unless you test your drugs with fentanyl test strips.



Left: Authentic oxycodone M30 tablets (top) vs. counterfeit oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl (bottom). Center: Authentic Adderall tablets (top) vs. counterfeit Adderall tablets containing methamphetamine (bottom). Right: Authentic Xanax tablets (white) vs. counterfeit Xanax tablets containing fentanyl (yellow).

# Blues or M30s

Blues or M30s are round, blue pills stamped with "M" on one side and "30" on the other side.

They contain illegally manufactured Fentanyl.

Individuals who use these don't often realize they are ingesting Fentanyl.

Drug dealers often try to pass the pills off as Oxycodone, a prescription opioid that's much less deadly than Fentanyl.



**AUTHENTIC**  
oxycodone  
M30 tablets



**\*FAKE**  
oxycodone M30 tablets  
containing fentanyl



# The Availability of Illegal Fentanyl

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- Illicitly manufactured Fentanyl (IMF) is available on the drug market in different forms, including liquid (nasal sprays, eye drops, and dropped onto paper or small candies) and powder.
- IMF is inexpensive!
  - 1 oz. of Fentanyl is about \$2,000-\$2,500
    - 1 oz. = 28,000 milliliters or 28,349 doses in an oz.
    - a gram of fentanyl on the street will cost between \$150 and \$200
    - a single 100 mcg to 400 mcg dose of fentanyl will be around \$2 or less
- Gel Cap- heroin mixed with Fentanyl- 1 dose= \$3-\$6







Utilization

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# Methods of Use

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- Fentanyl and its analogs come in several legal forms including powder, patches, tablets, and spray.
- **Legal Fentanyl** is taken by mouth, intravenously, or via a patch.
- **Illegal Fentanyl** is taken by the mouth, smoked, snorted, or by intravenous (IV) injection.



# Overdose

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- Over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.
- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or loss of consciousness
- Slow, shallow breathing; gasping for air, may sound as though they are snoring
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Pale, blue, gray, or cold skin



# Withdrawal

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Intense anxiety and agitation

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Inability to sleep

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Muscle aches and body pain

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Abdominal cramping

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High blood pressure and rapid heartbeat

# Cross Contamination

- When Fentanyl is mixed with other illegal drugs, the chances of addiction, health risks, and overdose increase.
- Fentanyl is extremely dangerous when combined with other drugs due to its high potency and ability to cause breathing problems.
- Some examples include Fentanyl-laced cocaine, Fentanyl-laced heroin, Xylazine mixed with Fentanyl, Eutylone mixed with Fentanyl.



# Fentanyl-Laced Cocaine



- Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug
- Fentanyl and cocaine look alike so people do not know what they are consuming.
- Mixing cocaine with other substances can increase the intensity of the drug.
- Drug traffickers often mix fentanyl into other drugs because it is cheap to manufacture, and a small amount goes much further.

# Fentanyl-Laced Heroin



- Heroin and Fentanyl are both powerful Opioid.
- Heroin is made from Morphine, which is made from the resin of poppy plants. It is refined from Morphine to become the addictive drug that can be injected, smoked, sniffed, or snorted.
- At times, Fentanyl is added to Heroin to increase potency, which is dangerous for the user because of Fentanyl strength.



## Xylazine Mixed with Fentanyl

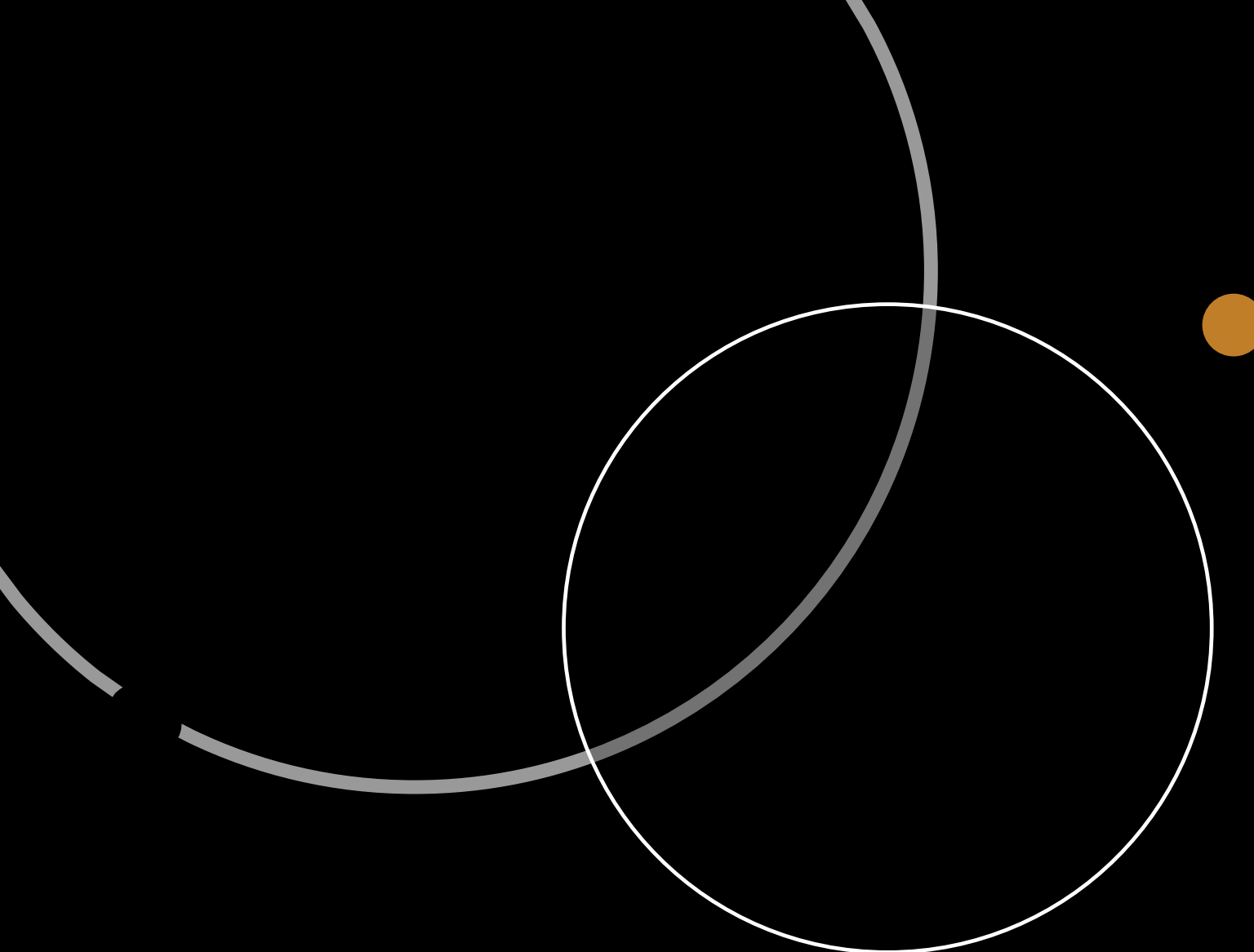
- Xylazine is a pharmaceutical drug used for sedation, anesthesia, muscle relaxation, and analgesia in animals such as horses, cattle, and other non-human mammals.
- Research has shown xylazine is often added to illicit opioids to lengthen its euphoric effects.
- Most overdose deaths linked to both Xylazine, and fentanyl also involved other substances, including cocaine, heroin, benzodiazepines, alcohol, gabapentin, methadone, and prescription opioids



# Eutylones Mixed with Fentanyl



- Eutylone is a stimulant and empathogenic compound developed in the 1960s, which is classified as a designer drug.
- It is a psychoactive bath salt.
- Cheap to produce and mimics the effects of cocaine, methamphetamine and ecstasy.
- Found in powder, capsule or tablet form.
- It may be ingested, smoked, snorted or injected.
- Classified as a Schedule 1 substance and deems it unacceptable for medical use in the U.S. since there is a high potential for abuse.
- Often sold under the codenames Red Bull and Blue Playboy and at times, it is sold as MDMA.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of three overlapping circles. The top circle is a light gray outline, the middle circle is a white outline, and the bottom circle is a white outline. To the right of these circles is a solid orange dot.

# National Overdose Epidemic

# The Epidemic

- According to the CDC 36,000 people died in 2019 of synthetic opioids.
- Drug overdose deaths reached 100,000 for the first time due to Fentanyl.
- A record high and the deadliest it has ever been.
- Fentanyl caused 64% of those deaths which was a record
- 56,517- April 2016, 78,056- April 2019, and 100,306- April 2021.



The image features a black background with several overlapping geometric shapes. A large, light green circle is the central focus. To its right, a smaller circle is partially visible, divided into a green segment and an orange segment. In the bottom-left corner, there are two overlapping triangles: a blue one on the left and a green one on the right. The word "Naloxone" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font, positioned over the intersection of the blue and green triangles and the edge of the large green circle.

Naloxone

# Fast Facts

What is Naloxone? A fast-acting remedy for an opioid overdose. It works on any type of opioid, including heroin, fentanyl, Demerol, and OxyContin.

It will not reverse the effects of other types of overdoses, such as cocaine or benzodiazepine medications.

Naloxone works very quickly- usually within 2-3 minutes. If it does not work within that period, then a second dose can be administered.



# What is an Overdose?

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An overdose occurs when the body has been overloaded with either a medication or an illicit drug.

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Opiates/Opioids affect the part of the brain that controls breathing and heart rate, if opioid levels in your blood are too high, your breathing and heartrate can slow down to dangerous levels, which could cause death.

# Symptoms of an Overdose

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Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”

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Falling asleep or loss of consciousness

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Slow, shallow breathing; gasping for air, may sound as though they are snoring

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Choking or gurgling sounds

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Limp body

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Pale, grayish, blue, or cold skin

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# Responding to an Opioid Overdose Emergency

1

## Survey

- Survey the scene: check for any live wires, needles, or unknown substances on or near the person's body.
  - Put on latex gloves

2

## Check

- Check for responsiveness: try to wake them- shout their name, tap their shoulder, pull their ear, or give a sternal rub. Look, listen, and feel for breathing

3

## Advise

- Call 911: advise the 911 operator that you believe this is an overdose situation. Advise the operator that you are trained to administer Naloxone and will be administering your first dose.



# Administer Naloxone

- **Step 1.** Lay the person flat on their back to receive a dose of Naloxone Nasal Spray.
- **Step 2.** Remove the Naloxone from the box.
- **Step 3.** Hold the Naloxone with your thumb on the bottom of the red plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle.
- **Step 4.** Tilt the person's head back and provide support under the neck with your hand. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril until your fingers on either side of the nozzle are against the bottom of the person's nose. Deploy the Naloxone.



# Initiate Rescue Breathing

- 1. Place breathing mask over the person's face, covering their mouth and nose.
- 2. Pinch the person's nose and give 1 breath every 5 seconds for about 3 minutes or until EMS arrives. If the person is still unconscious and EMS has not arrived, give a second dose of Naloxone, and start the breathing cycle again.


\*\*Most individuals will recover after a single dose of Naloxone is administered; however, the individual will be in immediate withdrawal (abrupt waking, vomiting, diarrhea, agitated).





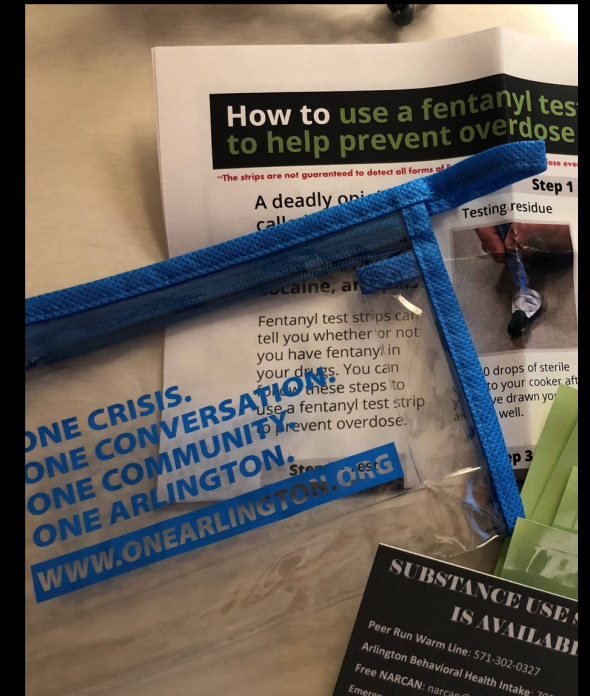
# Important Reminders

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- How should I store Naloxone?
    - Store below 77°F (25°C).
    - Do not freeze or expose to excessive heat above 104°F (40°C).
    - Keep Naloxone in the box until ready to use.
    - Protect from light.
    - Replace Naloxone Nasal Spray before the expiration date on the box (1 year).
    - Keep Naloxone Nasal Spray and all medicines out of the reach of children
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Scan the QR Code for Free Items to Promote Safety:

- Narcan
- Fentanyl Test Strips
- Medication Deactivation Bags
- Medication Lock Boxes





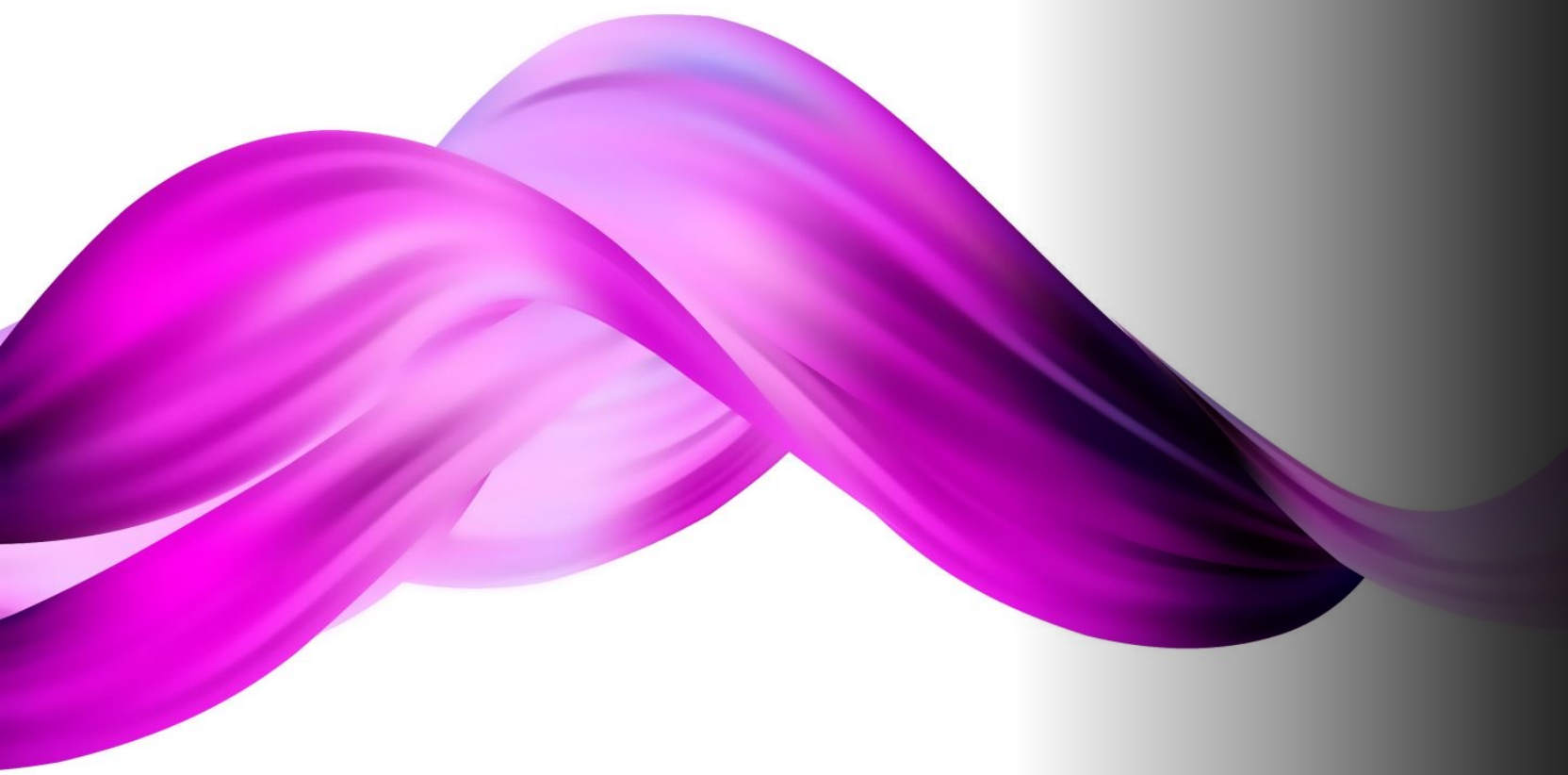
Questions?

# Resources

- <https://novarecoverycenter.com/drugs/synthetic-drugs/>
- <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/fentanyl>
- <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>
- <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edky/file/898991/download>
- <https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/xylazine>
- <https://novarecoverycenter.com/drugs/synthetic-drugs/>
- <https://footprintstorecovery.com/synthetic-drug-types/>
- Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative (AARI)  
<https://health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/aari/>
- Arlington County Public Schools Substance Abuse Counseling  
<https://www.apsva.us/student-services/substance-abuse-counselors/>

# Resources Continued

- Safe Treatment Locator <https://safetreatmentlocator.org/>
- Second Chance <https://secondchancearlington.org/>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – <http://www.samhsa.gov>
- 1-800-662-HELP (4357) Treatment locator – <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>
- National Institute of Mental Health – <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse – <http://www.drugabuse.gov/>
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America – <http://www.cadca.org/>
- The Partnership at Drug Free.org – <http://www.drugfree.org/>
- Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families – <http://www.apcyf.org>
- Arlington-teens – <http://www.arlingtonteens.com>
- Get the Facts about Drugs – <http://www.justthinktwice.com>
- Get Smart about Drugs – <http://getsmartaboutdrugs.com>



THANK YOU  
FOR  
ATTENDING!