



MINI
TRAINING
SERIES

Fentanyl

   @PYDCplymouth

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Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that was created in the early 60s and is primarily used as an anesthetic and pain reliever. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is responsible for drastic increases in opioid overdose deaths.

When created with laboratory-grade equipment and used by trained professionals, pharmaceutical fentanyl can be therapeutic for many patients receiving medical care.



In 2013 there was a surge in deaths in the United States involving synthetic opioids, or illicitly manufactured fentanyl. In 2017, over 28,000 individuals died of overdoses involving synthetic opioids (not involving methadone).

Common Street Names:

- Apache
- China White
- China Girl
- Dance Fever



How potent is fentanyl?

- 50 times more potent than heroin
- 100 times more potent than morphine

The photograph to the left was taken at the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory. On the left is a lethal dose of heroin which is equivalent to about 30 milligrams. On the right is a 3-milligram dose of fentanyl which is enough to kill an average-sized adult male.

How do I respond if somebody is overdosing on fentanyl?



The response during a fentanyl overdose is the same as any other opioid overdose. If you believe someone is experiencing an opioid related overdose you should:

- 1. Call 911**
- 2. Perform Rescue Breaths**
- 3. Administer Naloxone (Narcan)**