Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. It is used medically for severe types of pain or as anesthesia during surgery. Fentanyl is so strong that doses as small as a few grains of salt can be lethal.

FENTANYL

It is illegal to use outside of a medical setting. However, illicit fentanyl, and its 15 known analogs - or variations - are trafficked into the U.S. every day.

DRUG_I.D.

Looks: Powder, Pill, Liquid, or Mixed with other commonly abused drugs like Heroin or pain pills

Street Names: Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfella, Tango and Cash, Jackpot, Murder 8, and TNT

Methods of Use: Swallowed, Snorted, Injected, Blotter Paper, Patches, Lollipops

Actions: Fentanyl causes pain relief and euphoria similar to other opioids. Effects begin quickly but do not last long. The drug is highly addictive.

Warning Signs: Moods changes, depression, and anxiety, confusion, trouble concentrating, lost interest in people and activities, and withdrawal symptoms

TRAGEDIES

Fentanyl overdose rates have doubled in recent years. Drug dealers are cutting heroin and creating counterfeit pain pills with synthetic fentanyl to decrease cost and increase supply and potency. Most users do not realize they have been given fentanyl until it's too late.

EMIC



Fentanyl overdose can be instant. The drug enters the body quickly and a user can stop breathing immediately. It can also cause "wooden chest" - a user's muscles seize causing total paralysis of the chest and heart. This condition makes CPR impossible to perform and a user's chance of revival small.

If naxolone is not present, an overdose is usually fatal. Fentanyl is so powerful that it is considered a threat to public health and safety, especially to law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel who may encounter the drug.