



Department of Health

Project DAWN

Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that was originally created for pharmaceutical use and approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat severe pain. Fentanyl is an extremely potent drug that has a high risk for addiction and dependency. It is 100 times more powerful than morphine, and a small amount, as little as two milligrams or 10 grains of table salt, is considered lethal. Illegal fentanyl, which is not prescribed by doctors, has been the driving factor to the increase of overdose deaths in the United States, including Ohio.

In the United States, over 150 people die every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Drug dealers are mixing this type of fentanyl with other street drugs, such as cocaine, methamphetamines, and fake prescription pills. Often people are unaware that fentanyl is present because the appearance, smell or taste of the drug it is mixed with does not change. This increases the risk of overdose due to the potency of fentanyl and a person's lack of tolerance for the substance.

Fentanyl Test Strips

According to the Ohio Department of Health, fentanyl was involved in 80% of Ohio unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2021. Nearly everyone who uses street drugs, whether regularly or recreationally, are at risk of fentanyl exposure and unintentional overdose. The only way to know if there is fentanyl present is to test drugs with fentanyl test strips.

In partnership with Mental Health and Addiction Services and Ohio Pharmacy Services, the Ohio Department of Health has made BTNX fentanyl test strips available at no cost. These test strips have an accuracy of 98% in detecting fentanyl in a drug supply.

To pick up or mail order fentanyl test strips, please contact Tammi at tammi.krafft@co.trumbull.oh.us

