



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OPIOID EPIDEMIC - FENTANYL 1

FENTANYL- WHAT IT IS 2

FENTANYL- 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER 2

FENTANYL- WHAT IT IS CONTINUED 3

OPIOIDS IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY- DEMOGRAPHICS 3

FENTANYL- WHAT YOU CAN DO 4

OPIOID EPIDEMIC—FENTANYL

The heroin/opioid epidemic continues in Snohomish County as well as nationwide. Local law enforcement agencies, drug task forces, counties, and health districts continue to fight the epidemic and to find new, more effective ways to reduce heroin/opioid addiction.

A new trend in the opioid epidemic has added a new, designer opioid, fentanyl.

In Ohio, a police officer is recovering after stopping a car with two drug suspects. After searching the car, and arresting the suspects, the officer returned to the police station.

There another officer saw a white powder on the first officer's shirt. He brushed the powder off of the shirt, then an hour later passed out. It took four doses of Narcan (naloxone) to revive him. The powder was fentanyl.

For several years, fentanyl has been feeding the overdose drug deaths in British Columbia. Drug deaths in B.C. reached

922 for 2016, an all time high and an 80 percent increase over 2015. While not giving specific numbers, health officials attributed many of the deaths to fentanyl.

In Washington State, Snohomish County has the second highest death rate from fentanyl with 11 deaths in 2016. King County has the highest death rate with 22 deaths. The two counties account for 47 percent of the state's 70 fentanyl deaths

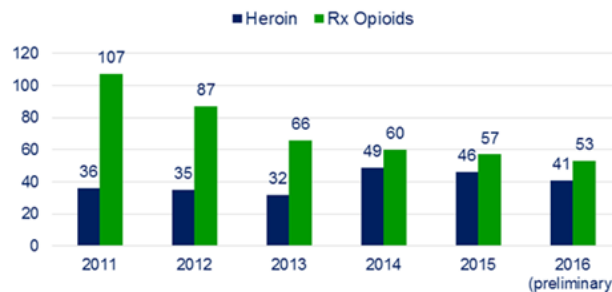
in 2016.

While the death toll to heroin and opioids has gone down, the Snohomish Health District points out that the

epidemic is not over. It attributes the lower death toll to "increased availability of naloxone" decreasing deaths but not necessarily decreasing usage.

But with the addition of the more toxic fentanyl, overdose deaths may not be reduced appreciably. As shown in the example of the Ohio police officer, more doses of Narcan are needed for revival.

Heroin & Opioid Related Deaths in Snohomish County



Source: Snohomish Health District



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Snohomish County
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**FENTANYL-
5 THINGS TO
REMEMBER**

1. *Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin or morphine.*
2. *It is relatively cheap to produce, increasing its presence in illicit street drugs.*
3. *Naloxone (Narcan) will work in case of an overdose, but extra doses may be needed for recovery.*
4. *Even if someone could tell that a product had been laced with fentanyl, it may not prevent their use.*
5. *Getting a loved one into treatment is more critical than ever,*

If you need help with your child's substance abuse, to to the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids at

<http://drugfree.org/>

FENTANYL- WHAT IT IS

Fentanyl is a prescription opioid drug used to treat severe pain or pain after surgery. It is similar to morphine, but is 50 to 100 times more potent. It is up to 50 percent more potent than heroin.

When prescribed, fentanyl can be administered via injection, transdermal patch or lozenges.

However, fentanyl can be produced by clandestine labs and is sold as a powder, spiked on blotter paper, mixed with heroin, or in tablet form.

People swallow, snort, inject, or put blotter paper in their mouths to absorb fentanyl.

Fentanyl, like opioids, heroin and morphine, binds itself to the brain's opioid receptors which are located in the areas of the brain that control pain and emotions. This binding can drive up dopamine levels in the brain's reward areas that produce a state of euphoria and relaxation.

Like heroin, fentanyl produces euphoria, drowsiness, nausea, confusion, constipation, sedation, tolerance, ad-

diction, respiratory depression and arrest, unconsciousness, coma, and death.

Opioid receptors can also be found in areas that control breathing rate. High doses of fentanyl, as well as other opioids or heroin, can cause breathing to stop completely. One of the symptoms of opioid/heroin overdose is that the victim is not breathing.



Fatal doses of heroin and Fentanyl

Fentanyl poses additional dangers to other opioids and heroin due to its much higher potency. This higher potency makes fen-

tanyl a fast acting drug, causing an overdose within seconds of injecting the drug.

In addition, drug dealers often add fentanyl to heroin or other drugs to reduce the amount of heroin and to increase their profit.

In Washington, preliminary information shows that most fentanyl is purchased on the street or online. It is purchased in a powder form or as a pill. Pills are made to look like a pharmaceutical opioid such as oxycodone or a Xanax or Valium pill.

FENTANYL- WHAT IT IS CONT.

While illicit forms of fentanyl makes up most of the current drug abuse problem, prescription fentanyl can be diverted to the black market through theft, fraudulent prescriptions, and illicit distribution by patients, doctors, and pharmacists.

Illicit fentanyl is often manufactured in China, then shipped to Mexico where drug cartels distribute it to the United States through its drug network.

The drug is difficult to detect because it can be packaged in small amounts. Also, manufacturers often tweak the chemical formula of their batches to avoid the proscribed Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) formula for fentanyl and therefore prosecution.

Drug abuse observers sometimes refer to Fentanyl as the third wave, following opioids and heroin. A potential fourth wave of drug abuse maybe developing in the Midwest and Appalachian regions of America with carfentanil.

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid, similar to fentanyl, but 100 times deadlier than fentanyl. Carfentanil has no medical use for humans. It is used as a sedative for large animal such as elephants. In fact, some



Fentanyl can be produced as pills that look like other

say that a few granules the size of table salt grains can be lethal.

First showing up last summer, carfentanil made local police and health departments scramble to learn about it. Police have doubled the dosage of the Naloxone that they carry from 2 mg to 4 mg. Labs have had to scramble to learn how to test for the drug. And some police departments have

stopped doing field tests for drugs due to the danger to officers from the danger of small amounts of carfentanil landing on

their skin.

So far, local police have not detected cafentanil in Snohomish County.

SIGNS OF FENTANYL OVERDOSE

- Severe drowsiness
- Slow heartbeat
- Seizures
- Respiratory reduction
- Low blood pressure

OPIOIDS IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY- DEMOGRAPHICS

- *In the first three months of 2017, 245 people were treated for opioid related overdoses.*
- *20% (48) were 30 years old or younger. Of those 48, one was under 11 years old.*
- *37% (91) were between 31 and 60.*
- *41% (101) were between 81 and 90.*
- *2% (5) were 90 years old or older.*

Snohomish Health District:

<http://www.snohd.org/About-Us/Snohomish-Health-District/Newsroom/Media-Release/ArtMID/2005/ArticleID/1324/New-Opioid-Data-and-Strategies-Rolling-Out-in-Snohomish-County>

FENTANYL- WHAT YOU CAN DO

The danger that fentanyl, and carfenanil, pose is that an opioid or heroin user might ingest a drug and not know that whoever manufactured the drug has included fentanyl to make an extra profit.

Both designer opioids are so lethal they can cause an overdose within seconds.

Here are some things you can do to protect your family and help to reduce the opioid/heroin epidemic.

If you have a family member who is addicted to opioids or heroin, let them know about the dangers of fentanyl. Knowing that the drugs that they buy may save your loved one's life.

Get Overdose Prevention Training. Local health officials have been emphasizing the distribution of Narcan to save victims of an overdose. For example, many first responders, both police and firefighters, carry Narcan with them. Private citizens can also carry Narcan. A good idea especially if you have contact with people who could be victims of an overdose. For more information on how you can obtain this life saving drug, go to,

<http://stopoverdose.org/>

Sign up for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Health officials advocate "Medication-Assisted Treatment" as a way to get off and stay off of an opioid addiction. MAT is a two pronged approach. The

medication is used to block the opioid and free the person from needing the drug. In addition, counseling is used to teach the person about addiction and the problems that it causes so that the person can develop his/her own strategies to avoid those problems.

Facts about Medication-Assisted Treatment:

<https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA09-4443/SMA09-4443.pdf>

This link can help you find help and treatment:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help>

Lock up your medications. Addictive drugs such as opioids are often "diverted" from home medicine chests into the black market. Locking up your medications, especially any opioids that have been prescribed for you, can help to prevent any diversion.

Take unused medications to a medicine drop off point. Likewise unused medications can lead to diversion. Take any of your unused medications to a drop off point. For more information, check out

<http://www.snohd.org/Waste/Medicine-Disposal>

or

<http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/>

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

Homeless Outreach-
Sgt. Ian Huri
Phone: (425) 508-8291
Email: neighborhood-watch@snoco.org

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

NEWSLETTER INFO

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477