



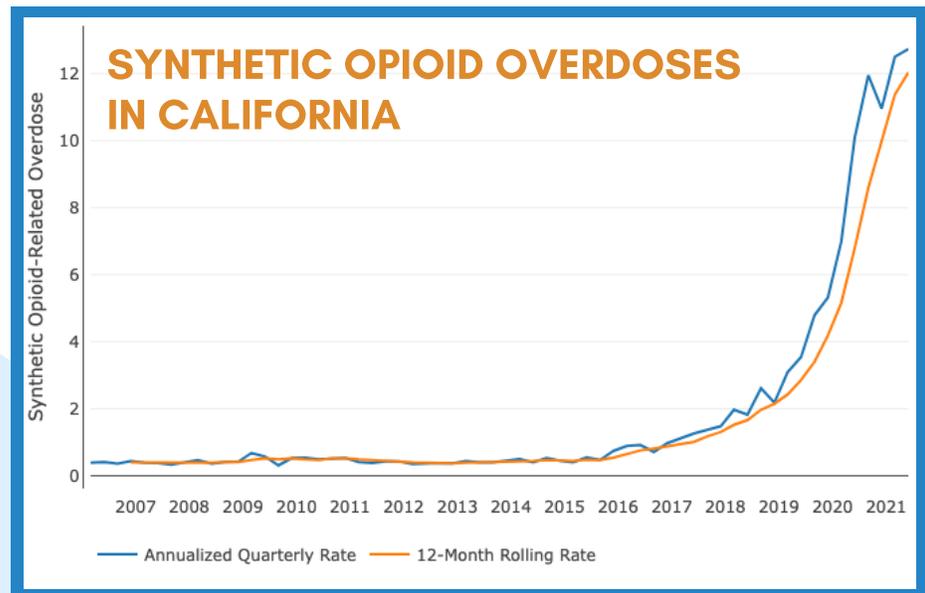
# FENTANYL: A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

## WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is **80 to 100 times stronger** than morphine. While fentanyl is used to treat severe pain in clinical settings, it is also manufactured and distributed illegally.

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Fentanyl is increasingly making its way into the street drug supply in Marin County. Because of its potency and low cost, fentanyl is often mixed with other illicit drugs, increasing the likelihood of a fatal interaction. In California, overdose deaths from synthetic opioids like fentanyl were **over five times higher** in 2021 than in 2018 alone.



[HTTPS://SKYLAB.CDPH.CA.GOV/ODDASH/](https://skylab.cdpH.ca.gov/oddash/)

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

**Naloxone** (brand name **Narcan**) is an **opioid overdose reversal medication** that is effective even against fentanyl poisoning. Having Narcan in your home or car can help you save the life of a friend, family member, or community member who is overdosing.

If you are a person who uses drugs, you can practice harm reduction tactics to decrease your chance of fatal overdose.

# HARM REDUCTION

## IF I AM A PERSON WHO USES DRUGS, WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT FENTANYL OVERDOSE?

Testing for fentanyl in your drugs is a good first step, but testing alone will not ensure safety. Always assume risk of fentanyl poisoning when taking illicit substances.

### YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR CHANCE OF OVERDOSE BY:

1. Using slow and using less
2. Snorting or smoking instead of injecting
3. Using in a group and staggering use
4. Always carrying naloxone (Narcan)

For more information on fentanyl harm reduction, go to <https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/>

## MARIN COUNTY HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES

**The Spahr Center- 150 Nelson Ave #100**

Check @thespahrcenter\_ on Instagram for weekly outreach locations.

Provides safe use supplies, HIV and Hep-C testing, fentanyl test strips, Narcan, and more.

For questions and information about Narcan trainings, go to: [www.RxSafeMarin.org/naloxone](http://www.RxSafeMarin.org/naloxone) #OnePillCanKill

## FENTANYL MYTHS: BUSTED!

### CAN I OVERDOSE OR "GET HIGH" THROUGH PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH FENTANYL?

No, you cannot overdose via skin contact. Fentanyl must be introduced to the bloodstream or mucus membrane for an individual to feel the effects.

### DOES NALOXONE WORK ON FENTANYL OVERDOSES?

Fentanyl is not resistant to naloxone (Narcan), but fentanyl overdoses can occasionally require multiple doses of Narcan. If you are a regular user, consider keeping several doses of Narcan nearby.