



Photo Credit: newlifehouse.com

If you suspect
an overdose
CALL 911



Fentanyl

100 times more toxic than morphine

Overdose signs & symptoms

- Severe sleepiness
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Lips and nails turn blue
- Person is unresponsive
- Gurgling sounds or snoring
- Cold and clammy skin
- Tiny pupils

For more information visit
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>

Photo Credit: Huffington Post

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful prescription painkiller about 100 X more toxic than morphine. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, a lethal dose of pure fentanyl is two milligrams, (the size of about four grains of salt). It is odourless and tasteless, and therefore hard to detect, and can even be absorbed through the skin.

Fentanyl has been mixed with other drugs such as heroin and cocaine and has been used in tablets made to look like prescription drugs, often as oxycodone. Less commonly, it's diluted and sold as counterfeit or synthetic heroin. Street names for fentanyl include Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfella, Green beans, Jackpot, Murder 8, Shady 80s, TNT, and Tango and Cash. A single kilogram of fentanyl, worth a few thousand dollars, can be cut down into more than 100,000 pills—worth millions on the street, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, the primary source of illicit fentanyl is China.

Fentanyl in Canada

A recent United Nations report found that Canada consumes the most prescription opioids per capita of any country in the world. The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse reported in 2015 that there were 655 fentanyl-caused deaths across all of Canada from 2009–2014. Fentanyl was detected in over half of the 238 drug overdose deaths in BC from January to June 2016, contributing to a 250 per cent increase in the same period in 2015.



Photo Credit: SOS Safety Magazine

In 2012 oxycodone changed its formula to be less addictive. As a result, nearly all oxycodones being sold on the street today are actually fentanyl in disguise. In Canada, these counterfeit pills are often coloured green and stamped "CDN 80" to emulate the appearance of pre-2012 oxycodone.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has reported that fentanyl addicts can consume up to 15 pills a day, which is a \$300-per-day habit. In order to fund their addiction, many turn to crime.

Pill presses, the machines used to convert fentanyl into tablet form, aren't regulated in Canada. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has called for new legislation to prevent pill presses from entering the country without being registered.

COMBATting FENTANYL

RCMP dog teams newly trained to detect fentanyl have already intercepted 12,000

tablets in BC. The training of all 139 RCMP narcotics profile dog teams across Canada is expected to be completed by mid-July 2017.

Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, wearing off within 30-90 minutes.

Paramedics and police officers in Western Canada already carry naloxone kits to allow for a rapid response to overdosing patients, and Health Canada has deregulated the drug to help speed its uptake by the rest of the country.