

OPIOID EPIDEMIC RESOURCES

Opioid Crisis Overview

- Last year, we lost more than 52,000 Americans to drug overdose – more than 33,000 of those from opioids.¹
- In 2014 there were 47,055 drug poisoning deaths in the United States - and in one year it increased 11.3 percent to 52,404 deaths. 63% (33,014) of those deaths are related to opioids. On average – 90 people a day die from opioid overdoses.²
- Overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids rose 73% (9,580 souls). This is mainly attributed to fentanyl-related overdoses.³
- All but one Major League baseball stadium (Dodger Stadium) filled to capacity would not equal the more than the 52,000+ dying by drug poisoning. America is losing the equivalent of a baseball stadium full of people every year to drug overdose.
- Nearly a decade ago, U.S. gun deaths outnumbered opioid-related deaths by more than 5 to 1. Today, more people die from opioid-related causes than from gun homicides.
- Nationally, according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, employers are losing \$10 billion a year from absenteeism and lost productivity due to opioid abuse.⁴
- **Fentanyl** is up to 30-50 times as potent (as deadly) than heroin itself – 2 milligrams of fentanyl (equivalent to a few grains of table salt) is considered to be a lethal (deadly) dose for more than 95% of the American public – note that there are many variables to include amount ingested and whether someone is a naive user or opioid tolerant.
- Eight out of 10 new heroin users began by abusing prescription painkillers and moved to heroin when they could no longer obtain or afford those painkillers. This is something the Mexican drug cartels have capitalized on by providing the heroin (for as little as \$10 per baggie) often times laced with fentanyl for US citizens willing to purchase it.

Publications

- [Drug Fact Sheets](#)
- [Fentanyl: A Briefing Guide for First Responders \(2017\)](#): This is a briefing guide for first responders which DEA recently distributed.
- [Map of Significant Fentanyl Seizures](#): This is a map of significant fentanyl seizures of 1 kilogram or more between January 2016 and June 2017

¹ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2016

² Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2016

³ <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>

⁴ <http://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/u-s-companies-losing-10b-year-due-workers-opioid-abuse>

- [DEA Targets Fentanyl: A Real Threat to Law Enforcement \(2016\):](#)
- This is a trifold which DEA produced in 2016 and made available to law enforcement.
- [FENTANYL \(Trade Names: Actiq®, Fentora™, Duragesic®\) \(2016\):](#) This is a product created by DEA's Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section which describes the threat from fentanyl.
- [Carfentanil: A Dangerous New Factor in the U.S. Opioid Crisis \(2016\):](#) This is an officer safety alert which DEA distributed in 2016 on the dangers of handling fentanyl
- [Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine:](#) This publication is designed to be a guide to help the reader understand and identify the current medications that teens are abusing.
- [Drugs of Abuse \(2017\)](#) - Drugs of Abuse delivers clear, scientific information about drugs in a factual, straightforward way. With the information in this guide, parents and caregivers can help their children make smart choices and avoid the consequences of drug abuse.

Multi Media Links

- 1) [Fentanyl First Responder Safety Video \(4 minutes\)](#)
- 2) [Chasing the Dragon Documentary \(49 minutes\)](#)

[Chasing the Dragon Study Guide for Educators:](#)

DEA Testimony on Fentanyl before Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

On March 21, 2017 DEA testified before the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the topic of fentanyl. A copy of that written testimony can be found here:

<https://www.dea.gov/pr/speeches-testimony/2017t/032117t.pdf>

Intelligence Products

Since its establishment in 1973, the DEA, in coordination with other federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement organizations has been responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of drug-related intelligence. The role of intelligence in drug law enforcement is critical. The DEA Intelligence Program helps initiate new investigations of major drug organizations, strengthens ongoing ones and subsequent prosecutions, develops information that leads to seizures and arrests, and provides policy makers with drug trend information upon which programmatic decisions can be based. Below are selected unclassified intelligence products on the heroin and fentanyl issue.

[2016 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary:](#)

[2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary:](#)

[Carfentanil: A Dangerous New Factor in the U.S. Opioid Crisis:](#)

[Counterfeit Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyls: A Global Threat](#)

National Take Back Initiative (NTBI)

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications.

[General Website:](#)

[13th NTBI Results, April 2017:](#)

[13th NTBI Press Release, "DEA Brings in Record Amount of Unused Prescription Drugs...":](#)

[For Law Enforcement Interested in Participating in the October 28, 2017 NTBI:](#)

Additional Fentanyl and Heroin Information

Trending Fentanyl Facts: Here you'll find the latest official publically available information on trends in trafficking and use of fentanyl and fentanyl related compounds. This includes new derivatives, trends in how and where they're being used, as well as intelligence on who is making these compounds and trafficking in them.

FAQ's-Fentanyl and Fentanyl-Related Substances: This is a list of frequently asked questions that DEA receives for fentanyl and fentanyl related substances

Get Smart About Drugs (www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com) is a website provided by DEA as a resource for parents, educators, and caregivers on matters related to drug abuse. The links for fentanyl and heroin are below

[Fentanyl](#)
[Heroin](#)

Just Think Twice (<https://www.justthinktwice.gov/>) is a resource for teenagers to understand more about the dangers of drugs. The link to heroin is below:

[Heroin](#)

Opportunities to Get Involved

[GetSmartAboutDrugs](#): This page gives a list various opportunities for the public to get involved in curbing drug abuse.

[JustThinkTwice](#): This page gives a list of organizations which are involved in reducing drug abuse among teenagers.

[DEA 360 Strategy](#): This page explains the DEA 360 Strategy and provides a list of national partners and non-government organizations hat DEA is working with on this effort.

Drug Disposal Regulations

[Registrant Fact Sheet](#) This fact sheet contains a list of frequently asked questions and answers which registrants have regarding the disposal of medications.

[Public Fact Sheet](#) This fact sheet contains a list of frequently asked questions and answers which members of the public typically have regarding the disposal of medications.

Other Drug Prevention Programs

[Operation Prevention](#)

There is an epidemic of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use nationwide. To combat this, Discovery Education and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have joined forces to bring you [Operation Prevention](#), an education program for elementary, middle and high school classrooms which aims to educate students, using science, about the impacts of these drugs.

[Campus Drug Prevention](#)

The DEA has a new website for professionals working to curb drug abuse on college campuses. Below is the associated flyer for this site.



Campus Drug Prevention Flyer 7-17-17.pdf