

Fentanyl Overdose Data

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic (man-made) opioid that is 50x more potent than heroin and 100x more potent than morphine. There are two types of fentanyl:

- Pharmaceutical fentanyl, which is primarily prescribed to manage acute and chronic pain associated with advanced cancer.
- Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl, which is illegally made, and is often mixed with heroin and/or cocaine—with or without the user's knowledge—in order to increase the drug's effect.

Fentanyl Use

Illegally made fentanyl is mixed with heroin and other drugs, often in the Midwest, Northeast and Southern regions of the United States. More than 80% of fentanyl confiscations in 2014 occurred in 10 states in these regions:¹

Rank	State	Number of Fentanyl Confiscations
1	Ohio	1245
2	Massachusetts	630
3	Pennsylvania	419
4	Maryland	311
5	New Jersey	238
6	Kentucky	232
7	Virginia	222
8	Florida	183
9	New Hampshire	177
10	Indiana	133

Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths

As illegally made fentanyl confiscations have increased, so have fentanyl-related overdose deaths. For example, in 2013, there were a total of 92 fentanyl-related unintentional overdose deaths in Ohio. In 2014, preliminary data show 514 fentanyl-related unintentional overdose deaths, almost a 500% increase.¹

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Health Advisory: Increases in Fentanyl Drug Confiscations and Fentanyl-related Overdose Fatalities. HAN Health Advisory. October 26, 2015. <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00384.asp>
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Page last reviewed: May 10, 2016

Page last updated: May 10, 2016

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury>), Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention