

# What Every Parent and Caregiver Needs to Know About **FAKE PILLS**



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION • Public Safety Alert

## What is fentanyl?

- It is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs to drive addiction.

FENTANYL IS

**50x**

**MORE POTENT  
THAN HEROIN**

## What are fake pills?

- The Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion are making fentanyl and pressing it into fake pills. Fake pills are made to look like OxyContin®, Xanax®, Adderall®, and other pharmaceuticals. These fake pills contain no legitimate medicine.
- Fentanyl is also made in a rainbow of colors so it looks like candy.



**\*FAKE**  
rainbow oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl

## Why is fentanyl so dangerous?

- DEA lab testing reveals that four out of every ten fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.



## What are the physical and mental effects of fentanyl?

- Fentanyl use can cause confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, changes in pupil size, cold and clammy skin, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death.

Visit [www.dea.gov/onepill](http://www.dea.gov/onepill) for more information and resources for parents and caregivers

*\*Photos of fake pills do not represent all available fake pills.*

**ONE  
PILL CAN  
KILL**

Data as of September 2022

## How would my child get fentanyl?

- Drug traffickers are using social media to advertise drugs and conduct sales. If you have a smartphone and a social media account, then a drug trafficker can find you. This also means they are finding your kids who have social media accounts.
- To learn about emoji codes used on social media, visit [Emoji Drug Code Decoded](https://www.dea.gov/onepill) on [www.dea.gov/onepill](https://www.dea.gov/onepill).

### PERCOCET® & OXYCODONE



### XANAX®



### ADDERALL®



## Why you should be concerned.

- The drug landscape is dramatically different from when you grew up, or even from just a few years ago.
- All parents and caregivers need to be educated on current drug threats to be able to have informed talks with their kids.

## Tips for Parents and Caregivers

- Encourage open and honest communication
- Explain what fentanyl is and why it is so dangerous
- Stress not to take any pills that were not prescribed to you from a doctor
- No pill purchased on social media is safe
- Make sure they know fentanyl has been found in most illegal drugs
- Create an “exit plan” to help your child know what to do if they’re pressured to take a pill or use drugs
- For more tips on how to talk to your child about drugs, read Chapter 4 of *Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent’s Guide to Substance Use Prevention* at [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications](https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications)



Visit [www.dea.gov/onepill](https://www.dea.gov/onepill) for more information and resources for parents and caregivers