



New Fentanyl Data: California Patient Perspectives

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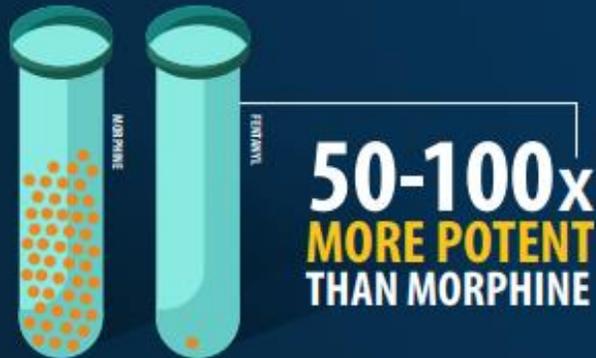
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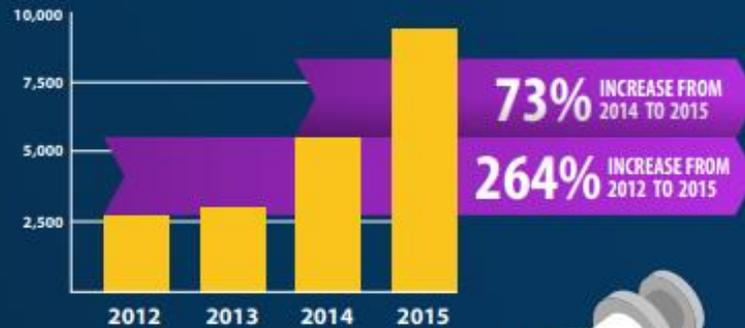


FENTANYL: Overdoses On The Rise

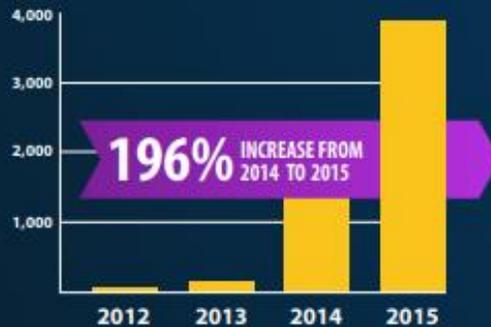
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



SYNTHETIC OPIOID DEATHS ACROSS THE U.S.



Ohio Drug Submissions Testing Positive for Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl



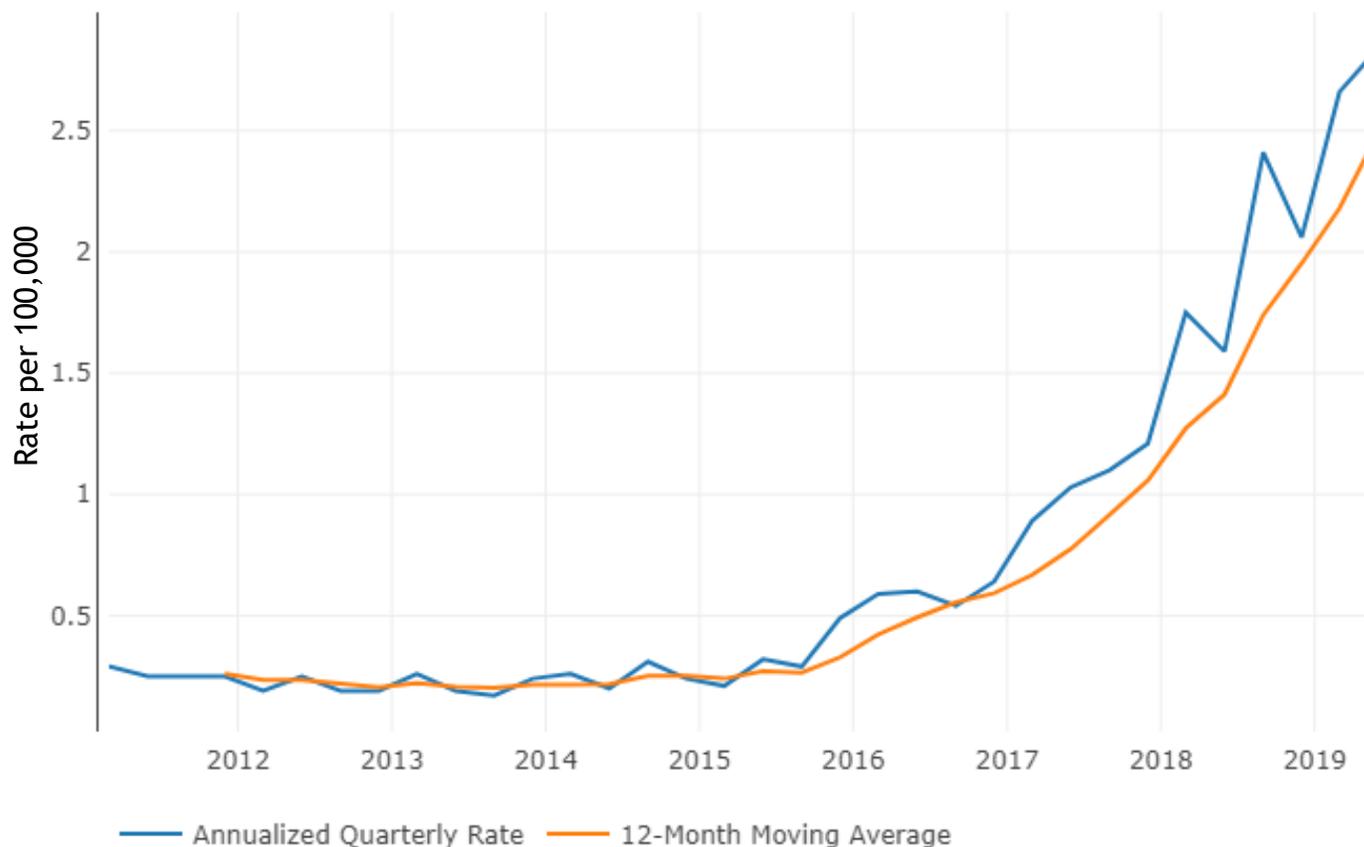
ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Although prescription rates have fallen, overdoses associated with fentanyl have risen dramatically, contributing to a sharp spike in synthetic opioid deaths.

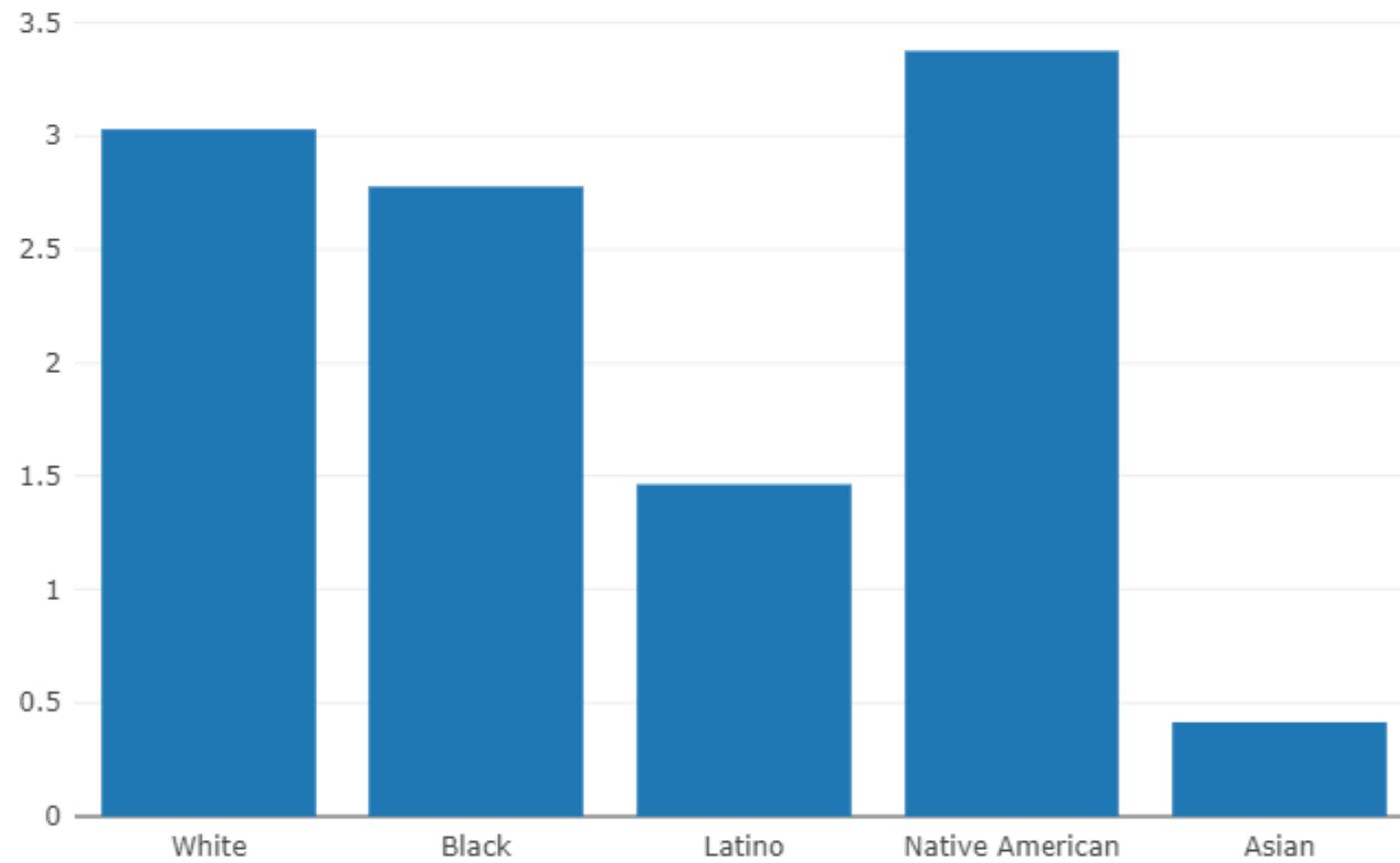




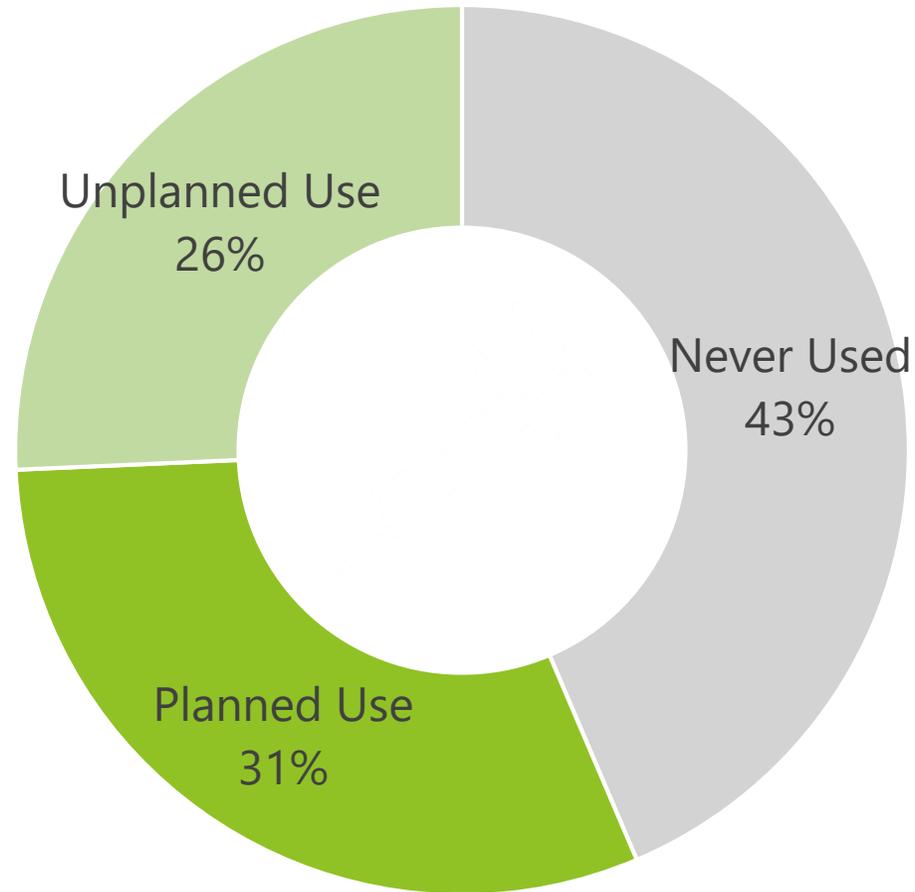
Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths - Total Population Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Residents



Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 2018 - crude rate per 100,000 residents



Fentanyl Use Among California Hub and Spoke Patients



Patient Perspectives



“It was just fentanyl. And, yeah, I purposely used it. It was just something that somebody had at the time. At the time, I was currently using heroin, and I knew that it was relatively the same family, like morphine and so forth. I knew that it was stronger, though, so I decided to try it.”

Patient Perspectives

“I planned to use fentanyl. It was not laced heroin. I scraped the patch and shot it up.”





Patients Who Had Used Fentanyl

- ▶ Significantly more likely than those who had never used fentanyl to have:
 - ▶ Ever injected any opioid
 - ▶ Ever misused benzodiazepines
 - ▶ Used amphetamines during treatment for OUD
 - ▶ Been diagnosed with a co-occurring mental health disorder
 - ▶ Had more past treatment experiences than those who had never used fentanyl



Overdose Risk

- ▶ 61% of participants who used fentanyl had overdosed on an opioid in their lifetime
- ▶ On average, they overdosed 2 times
- ▶ Significantly more overdoses than those who had never used fentanyl (2 vs. 0.7 for non-users)

Naloxone Access



- ▶ 98% of patients who used fentanyl knew what naloxone was
- ▶ But, nearly half (45%) would not have immediate access to it if they or someone they knew overdosed

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Naloxone Distribution Project

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) is funded by SAMHSA and administered by DHCS to combat opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California. The NDP aims to address the opioid crisis by reducing opioid overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone, in its nasal spray formulation. Since October 2018, the NDP had distributed over 200,000 units of naloxone, and recorded over 2,000 overdose reversals.

[Apply for Free Naloxone](#)

[NDP Information & FAQs](#)

To ensure your request for free naloxone is approved, please carefully review the NDP FAQ & the terms and conditions outlined in the NDP Application prior to submitting your completed application to DHCS for review.

Eligible entities and organizations to administer or distribute naloxone through a [California Public Health standing order](#), and to individuals with a valid prescription include, but are not limited to:

- First Responders
- Emergency medical services
- Fire authorities
- Law enforcement, courts, & criminal justice partners
- Veteran organizations
- Homeless programs
- Schools & universities
- Libraries
- Religious Entities
- Community Organizations

Other Harm Reduction Strategies

- ▶ Encouraging people who prefer fentanyl not to use alone and to use less fentanyl (Vestal 2017)
- ▶ Safe injection sites, such as those cleared by California State Assembly Bill 362 in 2019
 - ▶ Can increase enrollment in treatment (Beletsky et al. 2008)
 - ▶ Useful means to engage people in MAT





References

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Questions / Discussion

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