

Archdiocese of Seattle

Safety Training 2023



Archdiocese of Seattle

**FENTANYL
SAFETY TRAINING**



Archdiocese of Seattle

**HAZARDOUS DRUGS
SAFETY TRAINING**



We need help!

- We need your help to protect YOU and to PROTECT OTHERS
- Call Property and Construction for guidance
- Know your limitations! You are not to



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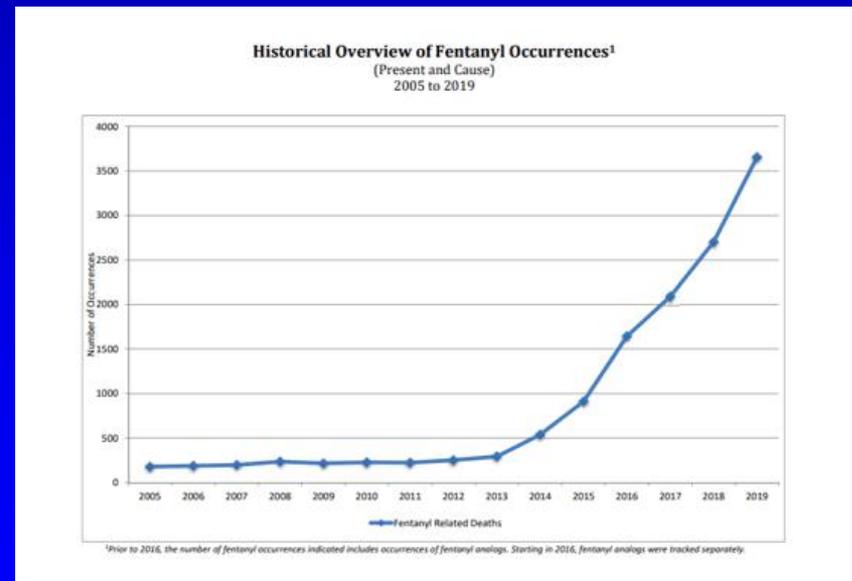
We need help!

- Know your limitations!
- You are only allowed to address low risk situations:
 - no contamination
 - not airborne
 - low quantity
 - drugs in sealed containers



Fentanyl Deaths

- Everywhere in the nation there is a sharp rise in deaths caused by fentanyl



Types of Fentanyl

Pharmaceutical Fentanyl

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that mimics morphine **but is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and up to 50 times more potent than heroin.**



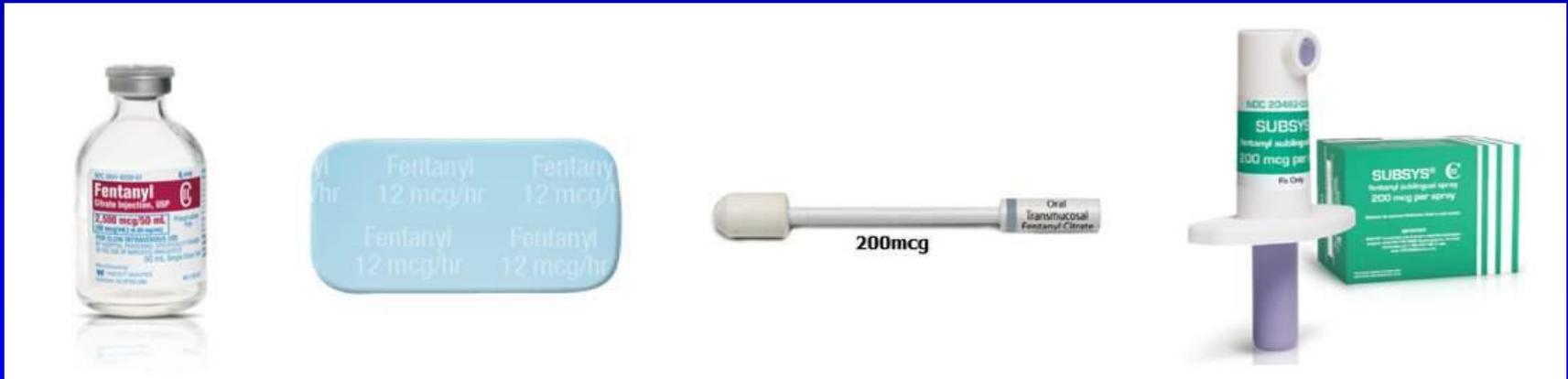
Types of Fentanyl

Pharmaceutical Fentanyl

- Pharmaceutical fentanyl was designed for pain management.
- It can be delivered through injection, a transdermal patch, flavored lozenges, dissolving tablets, and nasal spray



Types of Fentanyl



Illicit Fentanyl

- Illicit fentanyl refers to fentanyl and its analogs produced in clandestine labs.
- Some of these analogs, carfentanil for example, can be 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

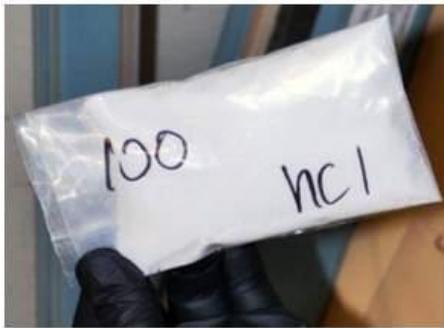


Illicit Fentanyl

- When you encounter illicit fentanyl, it may be as a raw powder or mixed with heroin or cocaine, in pill or capsule form, eye drops, or blotter paper.
- It's not unusual to find fentanyl disguised as other pharmaceutical drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, or alprazolam.



Illicit Fentanyl



Illicit Fentanyl

- Illicit fentanyl is likely to be of unknown purity and therefore unpredictable strength.
- In the absence of certainty, assume that what you encounter is pure, potent, and lethal.



Threats and Safety Skills

Routes of Exposure

- By design, fentanyl is easily absorbed into the bloodstream through mucous membranes when it's ingested, inhaled, or exposed to the eyes.
- Although rare, it can be absorbed through skin under certain conditions.



Threats and Safety Skills

- Church staff are most likely to encounter illicitly manufactured fentanyl in powder, tablet, and liquid form.
- Leading science organizations advise that incidental skin contact with dry fentanyl products is not likely to cause toxicity, but skin contact with liquids or gels containing fentanyl can be highly toxic.



Skills to Learn and Practice

- To respond effectively and safely, you may need to sharpen current skills and build new safe-handling habits.
- We've identified four skills to learn and practice:



Skills to Learn and Practice

- Conduct a fentanyl-specific risk assessment.
- Use personal protective equipment correctly.
- Handle fentanyl safely.
- Recognize signs and exposure and respond.



Skill 1: Conduct a Fentanyl-Specific Risk Assessment



Conduct a Risk Assessment

Low Risk
of exposure

- Not airborne
- Low quantity
- No contamination

Moderate Risk
of exposure

- Potential for airborne
- Moderate quantity
- Possible contamination

High Risk
of exposure

- Airborne
- High quantity
- Severe contamination



Low Risk of Exposure

Examples of low-risk situations:

- a small amount of drugs (as you'd expect for street-level possession or sale)
- pills or capsules (and the container is sealed and intact)



Low Risk of Exposure

Response in low-risk situations:

- gloves
- long sleeves (preferred)
- mask
- eye protection (optional)



Low Risk of Exposure

Response in low-risk situations:

- Keep in mind, this PPE is only for low-risk situations, when there's little chance of fentanyl particles reaching your nose, mouth, eyes, or getting on your skin.



Skill 2: Use Personal Protective Equipment Correctly

- The second skill to learn and practice is using PPE correctly.
- Given fentanyl's potency, ingesting or inhaling even small amounts can cause serious health issues, especially respiratory distress and possibly death.



Skill 2: Use Personal Protective Equipment Correctly

- Therefore, you must use appropriate safety measures and handle all unknown substances as hazardous and potentially lethal.



Use Personal Protective Equipment

- Do not eat or drink when working with narcotics.
- Never work alone on toxic materials. Notify a second person who will be aware of the substance being worked. The two will stay in visual contact until work is completed.



Skill 3: Recognize Signs of Fentanyl Exposure and Respond Immediately



Signs of Fentanyl Exposure

Signs of Fentanyl Exposure

- disorientation
- difficulty speaking or walking
- slowed pulse
- nausea
- slow, shallow breathing
- respiratory arrest



Signs of Fentanyl Exposure

Responding to the Effects of Fentanyl

- When you or someone nearby is showing signs of fentanyl exposure, act quickly.
- Call 911



Fentanyl

Any thoughts?

