### Tips for parents and caregivers

- Encourage open and honest communication
- Explain what **fentanyl** is and why it is so dangerous
- Emphasize not taking pills that were not prescribed by a doctor
- Make sure everyone in your family knows that **fentanyl** is found in most illegal drugs
- Create an "exit plan" to help your child know what to do if they are pressured to take a pill or use drugs





Find more tips on how to talk about the dangers of drug use in

Chapter 4 of

## **Growing Up Drug Free:**

A Parents Guide to Substance Use Prevention

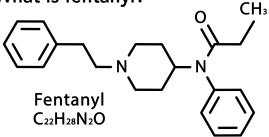
www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com/publications



What every family needs to know about fake pills



### What is fentanyl?



**Fentanyl** is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic.

## Fentanyl is

100x more potent than MORPHINE **50x**more potent than
HEROIN

## Why is fentanyl so dangerous?

Lab testing reveals that six out of every 10 fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.



# What are the effects of fentanyl?

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

#### How is it abused?

It can be injected, snorted/sniffed, smoked, taken in pill/tablet form, or spiked onto blotter paper.

#### What does it look like?

Legal fentanyl products are currently available as:

- Oral lozenges (lollipops)
- Tablets
- Nasal or oral sprays
- Patches

Illegally produced fentanyl is in powder or tablet form and is often mixed with cocaine or heroin.

# How would my child get fentanyl?

Drug traffickers use social media to advertise and conduct sales. If you have a smartphone and a social media account, a drug trafficker can find you or your child.

To learn about emoji codes used on social media, visit Emoji Drug Code Decoded on www.dea.gov/onepill



## What are fake pills?

Fake pills are made to look like OxyContin®, Zanax®, 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.

