

RECOGNIZE AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

Know the signs. Save a life.

Prescription opioids (like hydrocodone, oxycodone, and morphine) and illicit opioids (like heroin and illegally made fentanyl) are powerful drugs that have a risk of potentially fatal overdose. Anyone using opioids, whether or not their doctor prescribed the medication, can experience an overdose.

Death from an opioid overdose occurs when too much of the drug overwhelms the brain and interrupts the body's natural drive to breathe.

Signs and Symptoms of an Overdose

During an overdose, breathing can be dangerously slow or even stopped, causing brain damage or death. Recognize these signs and act fast:

- Small, constricted pupils
- Falling asleep or loss of consciousness
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Pale, blue, or cold skin

What To Do If You Think Someone is Overdosing

If you aren't sure if someone is overdosing, it's best to treat it like an overdose. You could save a life.

1. Call 911 immediately
2. Administer naloxone, if available
3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing
4. Begin CPR or rescue breathing, if properly trained
5. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking
6. Stay with the person until emergency workers arrive

RECOGNIZE AN OVERDOSE

Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a potent opioid showing up in heroin, cocaine, and other drugs. Although it can be prescribed by a doctor, it is now being illegally manufactured, cut into other drugs, and causing overdoses more often than ever before. Anyone using drugs is at risk, even if they only use casually. This is why it is important for everyone to carry naloxone (often referred to as Narcan), the drug that can stop an opioid overdose, thereby saving lives. Naloxone can be obtained without a prescription at participating pharmacies or from community-based training opportunities.



The image to the left shows the amount of each drug needed to cause the average person to overdose. Carfentanil, classified as a synthetic opioid, is used to tranquilize large animals and is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

Steve's Law

Steve's Law, also known as the Good Samaritan Law, provides limited protections to people who call 911 and/or administer naloxone in response to a suspected or known drug overdose. The person calling 911 is protected from prosecution for using or possessing drugs related to the particular overdose they are calling 911 for or responding to by administering naloxone.