

The Hidden Danger: Fentanyl-Laced Marijuana

What you don't know CAN be deadly

What is Fentanyl?

- **Extremely Potent:** Just 2 mg can be fatal depending on the person's body and opioid tolerance.
- **Dual Purpose:** Legally used to treat severe pain, but often illicitly manufactured and mixed into street drugs.
- **Undetectable:** Fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, and invisible—users often don't know it's there.

Fact Check: Fentanyl-Laced Marijuana

There are ongoing debates about whether fentanyl can survive the heat of combustion when smoked, but this argument overlooks critical facts. Multiple toxicology reports and confirmed death cases show that individuals have died after using marijuana contaminated with fentanyl. Forensic labs and medical examiners have verified the presence of fentanyl in both the drug supply and in fatal poisonings.

Whether fentanyl was mixed intentionally or through cross-contamination, the result is the same: people are dying. The science of burn points is not a shield from reality. Fentanyl is potent in microgram amounts, and even brief exposure can be deadly.

If fentanyl is found in counterfeit pills, cocaine, meth, and other street drugs, it is not unreasonable to believe it could appear in illicit marijuana. Don't take the risk. Fentanyl doesn't give you a second chance. Be safe — avoid street marijuana.

➞ Why Is Fentanyl Found in Marijuana?

- **Cross-Contamination:** Drugs handled in the same space as fentanyl can become contaminated, especially in illicit markets.
- **Intentional Lacing:** While not as commonly reported with marijuana as with other substances, law enforcement has begun to observe an uptick in cases where marijuana is intentionally laced with fentanyl. These instances, though still rare, are concerning—dealers may lace products to increase perceived potency or to create dependency.
- **No Regulation:** Street drugs are not tested for safety. There's no quality control in illicit drug sales.

➞ Risks of Fentanyl-Laced Marijuana

- **Poisoning and Death:** Especially dangerous for consumers who have no opioid tolerance.
- **Unexpected Reactions:** Fentanyl is a depressant. When combined with marijuana, it can dangerously slow breathing.
- **Addiction Risk:** Even one exposure to fentanyl can begin the cycle of opioid dependence.
- **Fast Onset:** Fentanyl poisonings happen quickly, often too fast for help to arrive without naloxone on hand.