

Social Media and Youth

What you need to know

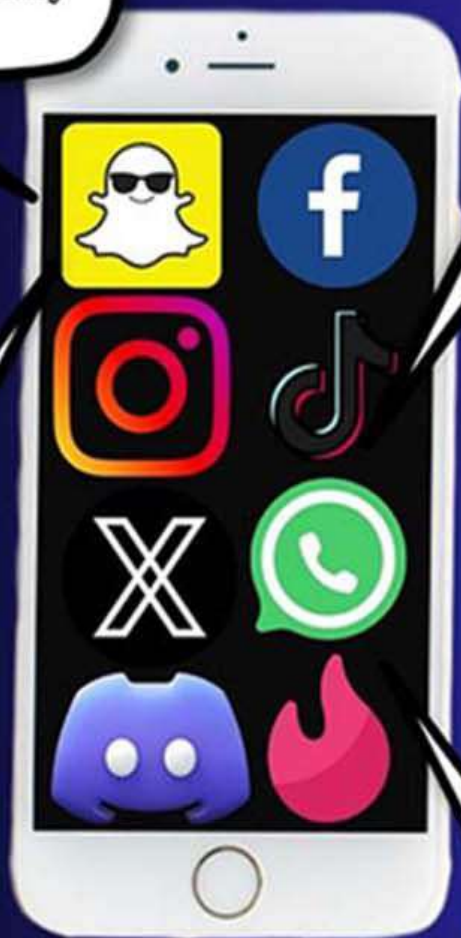
Snapchat dealers are selling Fentanyl disguised as prescription drugs, like Oxycodone, Adderall, and Xanax.

They promote their products through disappearing messages and stories on apps like Snapchat. They believe that using Snapchat will keep their drug dealing activities anonymous.

Disappearing messages are harmful. Users can send and receive direct messages, connect with strangers, and do most of what they can on other apps, but with a dangerous twist: everything seems to disappear. This means: Kids take more risks because they think Snapchat is "safer." (leading to bullying and exploitation)



Sadly, Fentanyl poisoning is now one of the leading causes of death among American teenagers.



Prospective buyers contact drug traffickers on social media apps in response to their advertisements – either using direct messaging or by commenting on a post. Once contact is made, drug traffickers and potential buyers often move to an encrypted communications app like WhatsApp, Signal, and Telegram. Drug traffickers typically switch to these encrypted communications apps to arrange drug deals with prospective buyers.

Sellers are often active on multiple social media platforms, Internet sites, and dark web marketplaces simultaneously and break up transactions across multiple platforms

Drug traffickers have turned smartphones into a one-stop shop to market, sell, buy, and deliver deadly, fake prescription pills and other dangerous drugs. In just three steps, deadly drugs can be purchased and delivered to your home just like any other good or service.

#ONEPILLCANKILL dea.gov/onepill



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