

TALKING PREVENTION WITH TEENS



Be clear about the risks

Make sure teens understand that fentanyl isn't some far-off threat—it's affecting our community, and young people like them are in real danger. Thinking that only those who buy drugs from strangers are at risk is a dangerous misconception. There are no safe sources for illicit drugs. It's crucial to drive this point home.



Remind them to seek help

Remember, life is precious and worth more than any friendship. Don't hesitate to speak up if you're worried about a friend. Please encourage them to seek support and help. If you suspect someone is supplying drugs to students or if someone's safety is at risk, you can report anonymously through platforms like *Say Something*. It's crucial to have these conversations with your friends and share what you've learned today.

Let's talk about the risk clearly. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that's incredibly potent—up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It's sneaky too—no taste, no smell, and nearly invisible. Just a tiny amount, like two grains of salt, can trigger an overdose. It's often mixed into pills to mimic prescription opioids, but it's also found in other drugs like cocaine and, alarmingly, even marijuana. Don't fall for the idea of a "safe" source. Fentanyl gets mixed in long before drugs reach the people teens trust to get them. It's unpredictable too—while one pill might not be harmful, the next could be deadly.

Educate *Act* Prevent

The United States is experiencing an unparalleled surge in drug deaths attributed to fentanyl, a lethal opioid frequently mixed into pills, powdered illicit substances, and even marijuana. This conversation guide can help equip you to engage teens in discussions about fentanyl, empowering them to make informed decisions for their safety.



Telling teens not to do drugs isn't an effective strategy.

Having a straightforward chat with teens about drugs can be more effective than just saying, "Don't do it." Some might ignore warnings if they feel judged. So, let's focus on facts and tips that can save lives. It's important to listen to them rather than just sharing our own views.



Hey, have you heard about naloxone?

It's a lifesaving antidote for opioid overdoses. Whether you're already familiar with it or not, it's essential information. Here's the deal: Naloxone is legal for everyone, including teens, and you can grab it from local pharmacies or a local harm reduction organization. They even offer free training sessions. If you're curious or have questions, don't hesitate to hit up the pharmacy. It's smart to involve a parent, too, and explaining why you're interested in naloxone is important.

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