

# THINK BEFORE YOU USE

## FACING FENTANYL

### The Other Dangers of Fentanyl and Illicit Drugs



#### WHAT YOU DON'T SEE CAN STILL HURT YOU

Drugs today are not what they used to be. Fentanyl — a synthetic opioid 50 times stronger than heroin — is often mixed into pills, powders, and even marijuana vapes. You may think you're taking something "safe" or "normal," but one pill or one hit can be deadly. But death isn't the only danger. There are other harms that can change your life forever — even if you survive.



#### ADDICTION CAN START FAST

Some drugs cause dependence after just one or two uses. Fentanyl can rewire the brain almost immediately, making it harder to stop even when you want to.



#### MENTAL HEALTH & TRAUMA

Drug use can intensify anxiety, depression, and hopelessness. It often creates isolation from friends, family, and activities that once brought joy. The deeper the use, the harder it becomes to find peace or purpose.



#### LEGAL & CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES

Getting caught with fentanyl-laced pills can bring felony charges even if you didn't know what was inside. Sharing, selling, or driving drugs for someone else can lead to prison time. Young people can lose scholarships, jobs, and opportunities for years to come.



#### FAMILY SEPARATION & BROKEN TRUST

Drug use and arrests separate families. Parents lose children, and children lose their parents — sometimes permanently. Addiction doesn't just hurt one person; it affects everyone who loves them.



#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION

Many young people caught in addiction are targeted by traffickers. When someone needs drugs, food, or money, predators take advantage — trading sex or labor for drugs or survival. This happens to girls and boys. It's not a choice; it's exploitation.



#### VIOLENCE & UNSAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Drug use and trafficking can expose young people to violence, theft, and unsafe situations. Dealers often protect their trade with fear, coercion, and threats. Many youth end up in dangerous places they never meant to be.



#### DEATH FROM A SINGLE MISTAKE

Counterfeit pills are everywhere — sold online, in schools, or from friends. Even one pill that looks real can contain enough fentanyl to stop breathing in seconds. One pill can kill.



#### THERE IS ANOTHER WAY

You always have a choice — and asking for help is strength. If you're struggling or worried about someone you know:

- Call or text 988 for immediate mental-health support.
- SAMHSA Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment options.
- Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733.
- Talk to a counselor, teacher, or trusted adult. You're not alone.



#### IMPACTED FAMILIES MESSAGE

We believe prevention and education are the first steps in harm reduction. You deserve honesty, protection, and a chance to live free from fear, addiction, and exploitation. Together, we can stop this crisis — one informed choice at a time.



facingfentanylnow.org