# What Every Parent and Caregiver Needs to Know About FAKE PILLS

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION • Public Safety Alert

## What is fentanyl?

 It is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs to drive addiction. FENTANYL IS 50 x MORE POTENT THAN HEROIN

# What are fake pills?

- The Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion are making fentanyl and pressing it into fake pills. Fake pills are made to look like OxyContin<sup>®</sup>, Xanax<sup>®</sup>, Adderall<sup>®</sup>, and other pharmaceuticals. These fake pills contain no legitimate medicine.
- Fentanyl is also made in a rainbow of colors so it looks like candy.





\*FAKE rainbow oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl

### Why is fentanyl so dangerous?

 DEA lab testing reveals that four out of every ten fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

# What are the physical and mental effects of fentanyl?



- Fentanyl use can cause confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, changes in pupil size, cold and clammy skin, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death.

Visit www.dea.gov/onepill for more information and resources for parents and caregivers





### How would my child get fentanyl?

- Drug traffickers are using social media to advertise drugs and conduct sales. If you have a smartphone and a social media account, then a drug trafficker can find you. This also means they are finding your kids who have social media accounts.
- To learn about emoji codes used on social media, visit Emoji Drug Code Decoded on www.dea.gov/onepill.

### Why you should be concerned.

- The drug landscape is dramatically different from when you grew up, or even from just a few years ago.
- All parents and caregivers need to be educated on current drug threats to be able to have informed talks with their kids.

### **Tips for Parents and Caregivers**

- Encourage open and honest communication
- Explain what fentanyl is and why it is so dangerous
- Stress not to take any pills that were not prescribed to you from a doctor
- No pill purchased on social media is safe
- Make sure they know fentanyl has been found in most illegal drugs
- Create an "exit plan" to help your child know what to do if they're pressured to take a pill or use drugs
- For more tips on how to talk to your child about drugs, read Chapter 4 of Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention at www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/publications



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