

FENTAPILL LESSON PLAN

TIME NEEDED

30-40 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

Digital Projector

Access to YouTube (if you choose)

Kahoot (if you choose)

DESCRIPTION

Kids need to learn the facts about fake prescription pills. The DEA seized 79+ million fake prescription pills in 2023, and they found that [7 in 10 pills](#) were laced with lethal amounts of fentanyl (aka "fentapills"). In this lesson, which can be done all at once or in different segments, students will review a short educational video and/or information sheet on the risks of fentanyl and take a quiz on the life-saving facts.

SUGGESTED STEPS

Step 1: Watch the video about Fentapills from the organization Song for Charlie.

Link to video: bit.ly/fentapill-SFC

Step 2: Read this to the class (or have a volunteer read it):

Fentanyl is a potent prescription synthetic opioid drug approved by the FDA for pain relief and anesthetic. Prescription opioids are powerful drugs with a high risk for dependency. Fentanyl is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. A potentially lethal dose of fentanyl is as small as 2 grains of salt.

While you should be concerned about all substance use, fentanyl is different because it's so deadly. According to data from the Center for Disease Control, in 2020 there was a 560% increase in overdose deaths fueled by fentanyl. In the illicit drug market, [fentanyl is being mixed with other drugs](#), such as cocaine, oxycodone, and Adderall. Criminal drug networks are flooding the market with fake pills and other drugs laced with fentanyl. Kids aren't intentionally looking for fentanyl, and they're unaware it's been added to the substances they're seeking. As a result, the surge in fentanyl is claiming many young lives through poisoning at a staggering rate.

Next, show the Fentanyl Fact Sheet (English and Spanish), found at bit.ly/NHFentapillFacts, and ask for volunteers to read the different fact points to the entire class.

Discuss: Break students into pairs or small groups of 3-4, and show these questions on the screen, or write them down:

- What's surprising or shocking to you about what you just learned?
- What do you think is the most effective way to inform students about the dangers of Fentanyl and Fentapills? What doesn't work?
- Why do you think some kids would still take the risk of taking pills – even if they don't know what's in them?

Step 3: Quiz Time

Give students 5-10 minutes to read the [Fentapill Fact Sheet](#) and learn the content. Then take the quiz. You can either do this online quiz using Kahoot!, bit.ly/fentapills-quiz, or we've created a quiz you can simply print out on the following page.

A few notes about Kahoot

- Before hosting a Kahoot! session, test for possible connectivity issues at your venue at least a few days beforehand. This will give you time to work with your IT team to fix any issues discovered.
- The number of players in your Kahoot! session will be the number on the plan you have. Free educator Kahoot! accounts allow for up to 40 players per game. Create a free educator account at Kahoot.com.
- You can host and play any of the Natural High Kahoot! games, but you are unable to duplicate and/or edit our games.

DIG DEEPER WITH NATURAL HIGH'S FENTANYL PSA

Natural High produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to address awareness for kids, educators, parents, and caregivers on the dangers of fentanyl. Some content in this film may not be appropriate for kids under 11, so please watch ahead of time to see if it will be appropriate for your class.

[Watch the fentanyl PSA here.](#)

The PSA is a 6-minute short film that can be shown to a classroom or in a full assembly. We encourage you to watch the film as a group and have a discussion using our [Film Screening Guide](#) and toolkit.

HAVE STUDENTS CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION AT HOME

Resources for parents and caregivers on fentanyl:

- A guide for parents: How To Talk To Kids About Fentanyl can be found here in English and Spanish at bit.ly/NHFentanylConvoGuide
- A parent send-home letter can be found in a Google doc at bit.ly/fentanyl-letter. Feel free to make a copy and edit for your own purposes.

FENTAPILL QUIZ KEY

Printable quiz on following page

1. How many people died from drug poisoning in 2023?
d. More than 100,000 people
2. Fake pills are easy to identify.
False
3. There are 2 types of fentanyl: Pharmaceutical fentanyl and ____?
b. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF)
4. What is Nalaxone?
b. A life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids
5. Illicitly-made fentanyl is mixed with which drugs?
d. Fentanyl has been found in all of these and more
6. Why is fentanyl found in other drugs?
d. All of the above
7. How many fake pills out of 10 are found to contain a lethal dose of fentanyl?
d. 7
8. What are some worrying signs of potential overdose?
e. All of the above
9. What does fentanyl smell like?
d. Nothing
10. Kids have died from taking a pill they were promised to not have fentanyl.
True
11. If you have a friend who might have ingested fentanyl, you should:
b. Call 911 immediately
12. If someone takes a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl, they have no chance for survival.
False

FENTAPILL QUIZ

1. How many people died from drug poisoning in 2023?
 - a. None
 - b. More than 1 million people
 - c. Only a few thousand
 - d. More than 100,000 people
2. Fake pills are easy to identify.
True or False
3. There are 2 types of fentanyl: Pharmaceutical fentanyl and ____?
 - a. Synthetic fentanyl
 - b. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF)
 - c. Placebo fentanyl
 - d. Cartel fentanyl
4. What is Nalaxone?
 - a. A new cryptocurrency
 - b. A life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids
 - c. An illegal drug
 - d. A fake word
5. Illicitly-made fentanyl is mixed with which drugs?
 - a. Adderall
 - b. Xanax
 - c. Oxycodone
 - d. Fentanyl has been found in all of these and more
6. Why is fentanyl found in other drugs?
 - a. It's cheaper to make
 - b. It's more addictive
 - c. It's more powerful
 - d. All of the above

7. How many fake pills out of 10 are found to contain a lethal dose of fentanyl?
- a. 4
 - b. 1
 - c. 8
 - d. 7
8. What are some worrying signs of potential overdose?
- a. Falling asleep or losing consciousness
 - b. Choking or gurgling sounds
 - c. Limp body
 - d. Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)
 - e. All of the above
9. What does fentanyl smell like?
- a. Bleach
 - b. Roses
 - c. Chocolate
 - d. Nothing
10. Kids have died from taking a pill they were promised to not have fentanyl.
True or False
11. If you have a friend who might have ingested fentanyl, you should:
- a. Wait it out
 - b. Call 911 immediately
 - c. Hope for the best
12. If someone takes a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl, they have no chance for survival.
True or False