What are opioids?

Opioids, also called narcotics, are a class of drugs that relieve pain. They can be either prescription or illicitly manufactured, but they carry a high risk of addiction and overdose.

Names of opioids:

- codeine
- diphenoxylate (Lomotil)
- fentanyl – illicitly manufactured
- fentanyl - pharmaceutical
- heroin – illegal
- hydrocodone (Vicodin, Norco)
- hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- meperidine (Demerol)
- morphine
- oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet)

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid—up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S. Because fentanyl is often mixed into other drugs without people knowing, even a small amount can be extremely dangerous.

Risks of Opioid Use

Overdose – Too much can slow or stop breathing, which can be deadly.

Addiction – Opioids can change the brain, making it hard to stop.

Drowsiness & Confusion – Can make it unsafe to drive or operate machines.

Constipation & Nausea – Common side effects of use.

Tolerance – Over time, more is needed for the same effect.

Hidden Danger – Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous, and many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl.

Signs of an Opioid Overdose

- **Face** is clammy to touch and has lost color. Vomiting or gurgling noises.
- **Body** is limp. Fingernails or lips have a blue or purple tinge.
- **Sleep** is deep and cannot be awakened. Difficulty speaking.
- **Breathing** is slow or has stopped.
- **Heartbeat** is slow or has stopped.

FREE Naloxone Available

NALOXONE CAN TEMPORARILY REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE. IN THE EVENT OF AN OVERDOSE, NALOXONE CAN SAVE A LIFE.

To access naloxone at no cost, contact a local public health unit or order a free kit at hhs.nd.gov/opioids

FIND OUT MORE AT
hhs.nd.gov/opioids

OPIOIDS
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