

ALERT

on

RAINBOW FENTANYL

BACKGROUND

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can quickly cause overdose. It is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, making it a major contributor to the 150+ synthetic overdose deaths occurring every day.

SITUATION

In recent months, brightly colored fentanyl tablets, powder, and blocks that look like candy or sidewalk chalk have been trending nationally amongst our youth (see images below). These products, known as rainbow fentanyl, are targeted to increase addiction in young people and are often packaged in commercial product packaging (such as holiday candy). Due to their potency, very small amounts can cause damage to the brain, and lead to overdoses or overdose death.

ACTION

Naloxone saves lives by reversing opioid overdose. It is quick and easy to administer, with trainings available across the country. Communities, parents, and teachers working with youth should consider educating on the dangers of rainbow fentanyl and seek naloxone training to prevent overdose deaths.

To complete training online, visit
<https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/naloxone/naloxonetoolkit/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>
2. <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>
3. <https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

