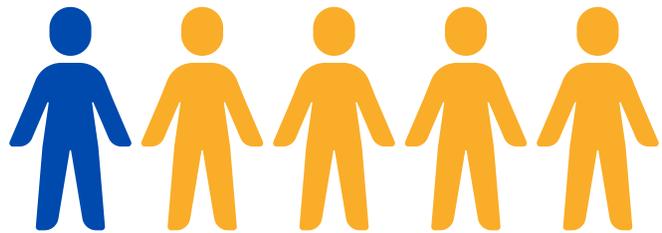


OPIOIDS

in SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Opioids are the most addictive drugs and have the highest risk of overdose. Illegal drugs or prescription drugs obtained illegally have the highest risk because you cannot be sure what is in it or how strong it is.¹

Nearly 22 percent of California's youth have misused opioid pain relievers at least once by the 11th grade. That's about 1 out of every 5 students.²



Prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl are all opioids, and they affect your brain the same way. It is a common misconception that prescription opioids are safe since they are prescribed by a doctor, but an overdose is possible with any kind of opioid.

To learn more about prescription and illicit opioids, visit overthedosevt.com.

“The high number of fentanyl deaths . . . is extremely troubling and worrisome, especially as we see it happening to both teenagers and adults, particularly young adults. Fentanyl can be found in fake pills, powders, and other drugs. Even one pill, a fragment of a pill or one snort can be fatal.”

Santa Clara County Medical Examiner Coroner,
Dr. Michelle Jorden



Many opioid pills are made by counterfeiting organizations and most pills on the street are fake. Fake pills are made to look like real prescription medications and come in different types, shapes, and colors. Many of the fake oxycodone pills are blue, circular tablets marked with a letter “M” inside a square on one side, and the number “30” on the other. Fentanyl is also available in a powder form which is as dangerous and deadly.¹

Fentanyl is a very powerful opioid drug—80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine—and exposure to even small amounts can cause overdose and death. Fentanyl can kill in a matter of minutes.¹

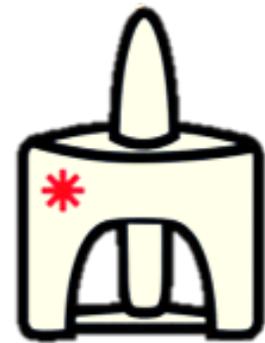
Fentanyl Deaths per Year



Santa Clara County is experiencing a marked increase in fentanyl overdoses and deaths which can be attributed to, in part, an increase in illicit fentanyl and counterfeit pills.

Data obtained from the Santa Clara County Office of the Medical Examiner-Coroner. Counts for 2020 are not final and may be subject to increase.

“Fentanyl is a very powerful opioid drug and can kill in a matter of minutes. The risk of death increases if a person takes these drugs alone,” said Bruce Copley, Director of Drug and Alcohol Services. “If you use opiates or know someone who might be using them, you can get the drug Narcan to stop an overdose. Friends and family can be trained on how to administer Narcan and can carry it with them to save a life in case of an emergency!”



1. County of Santa Clara Medical Examiner-Coroner. (2020, November 20). Fentanyl deaths rising: medical examiner-coroner confirms 53 fentanyl overdose deaths as of November 10, 2020 [Press release].

2. Hadland, S. E., Wharam, J. F., Schuster, M. A., Zhang, F., Samet, J. H., & Larochelle, M. R. (2017). Trends in receipt of buprenorphine and naltrexone for opioid use disorder among adolescents and young adults, 2001–2014. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 17(8), 747–755.

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