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# **Responsive Leadership in the Face of the Fentanyl Crisis**

## **Fentanyl & Opioid Response Toolkit For Schools Overview**

**COSA Principal Conference  
10/24/2022  
Eugene, Oregon**



# Presenters

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# Objectives

1. Learn about the overdose opioid crisis in Oregon with a specific focus on school aged populations.
2. Understand how to apply the ODE/OHA Fentanyl & Opioid Response Toolkit for Schools.
3. Share Information on Substance Use Disorders and Harm Reduction approaches.
4. Learn about other community resources to guide schools and families through this crisis.

# RISE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN AMERICA

## A Multi-Layered Problem in Three Distinct Waves

NEARLY  
**500,000**  
PEOPLE DIED FROM AN  
OPIOID OVERDOSE  
(1999-2019)



**1990s**

mark a rise in prescription  
opioid overdose deaths

### **Rx OPIOIDS**

Include natural, semi-synthetic,  
and methadone and can be  
prescribed by doctors



**2010**

marks a rise in heroin  
overdose deaths

### **HEROIN**

An illegal opioid



**2013**

marks a rise in synthetic  
opioid overdose deaths

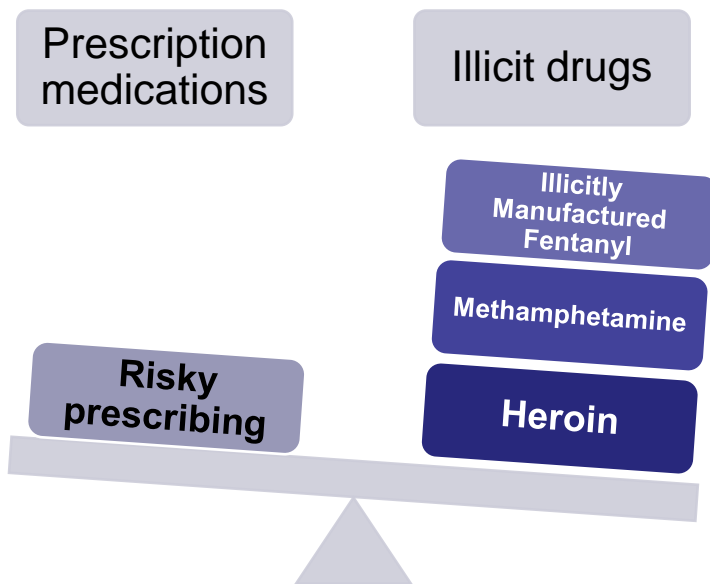
### **SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS**

Include fentanyl and can  
be illicitly made

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Learn more about the evolving opioid overdose crisis: [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose)

# The changing overdose epidemic



➤ Fewer deaths & overdoses from Rx medications

➤ More deaths & overdoses from illicit drugs

# Increased reports of overdoses involving fentanyl in drug supply in Oregon

Hearing from peers and other community partners working with people who use drugs

Trends developing in surveillance data

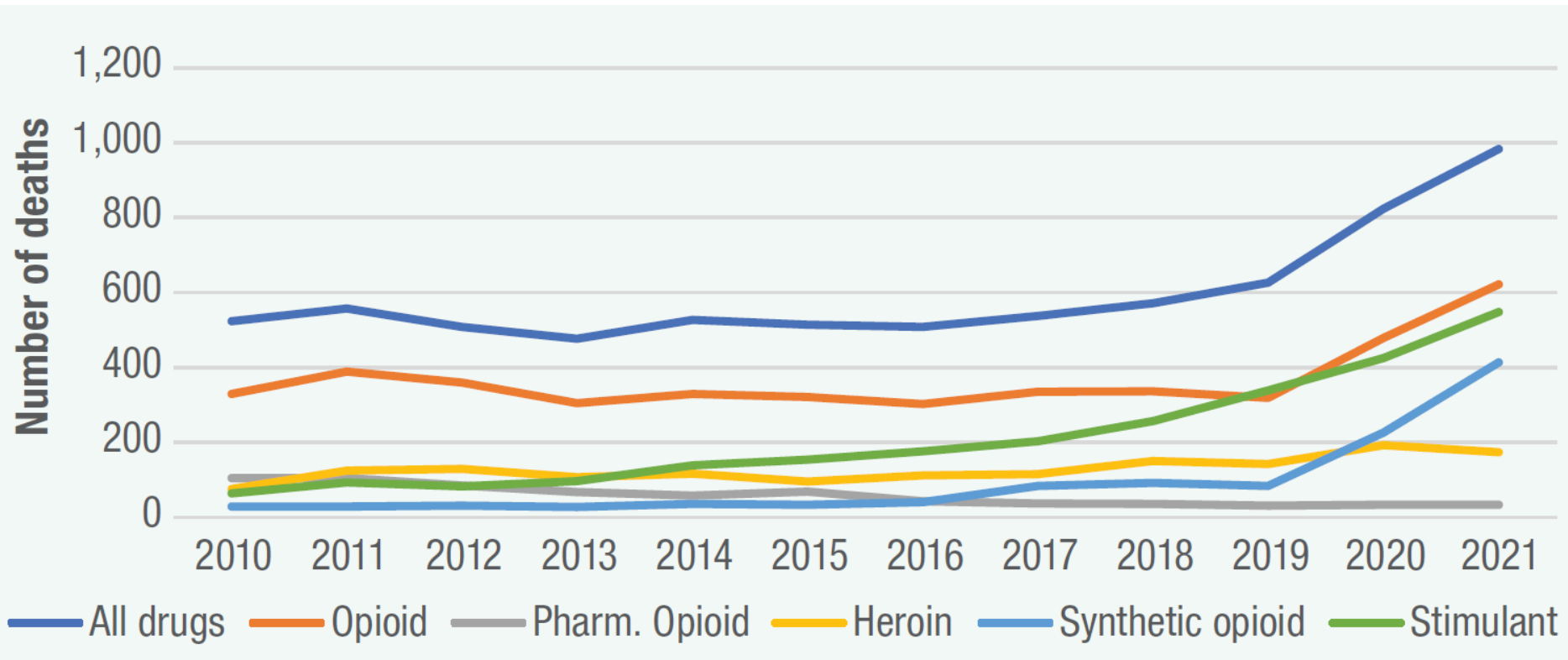
- State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)
- Hospital and Emergency Department Data
- High-Intensity Drugs Trafficking Area (HIDTA)



Photos collected from drug seizures in Oregon

# Overdose deaths from stimulants and synthetic opioids are rising

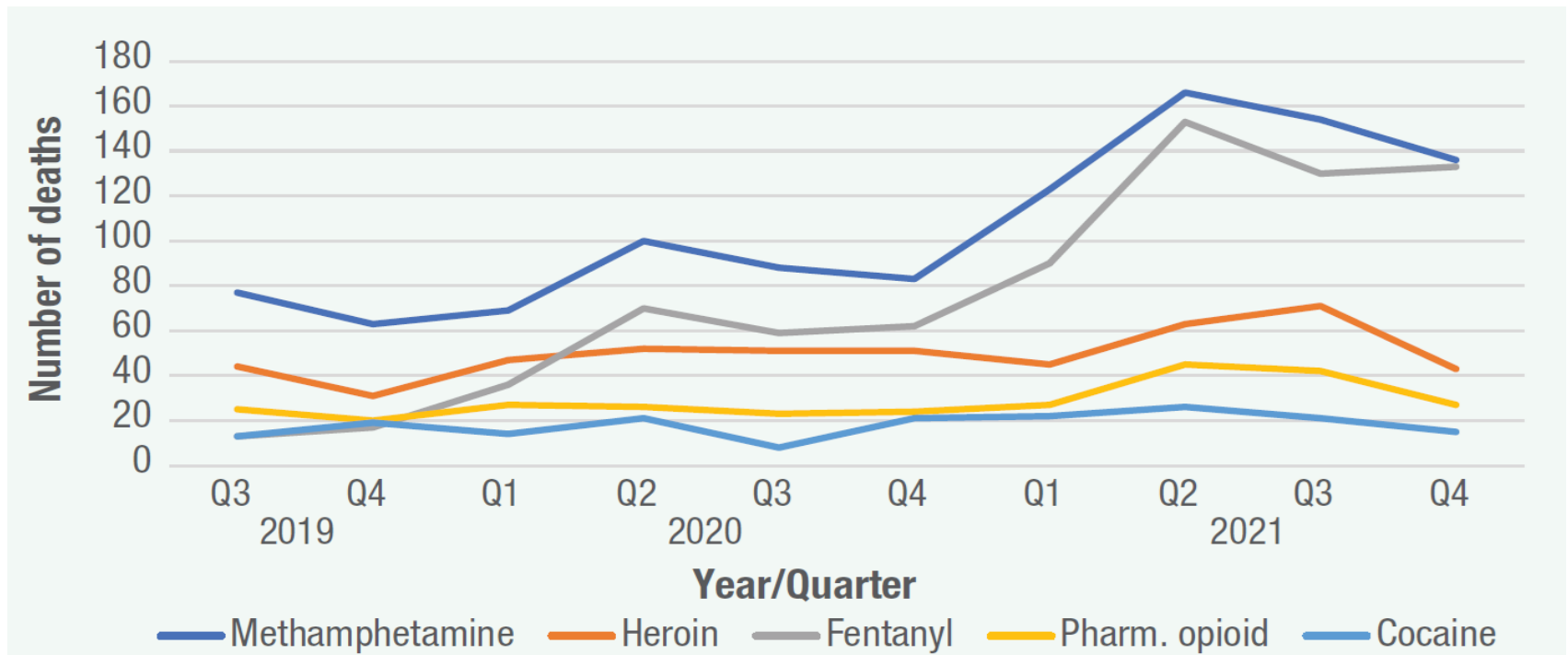
Drug Overdose Deaths, Oregon 2010 -2021



Source: Oregon Vital Records (Deaths), OHA  
Center for Health Statistics

# Overdose rates higher than previous years across all quarters in 2021

Unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths by drug involved and quarter, Oregon, July 2019 - December 2021

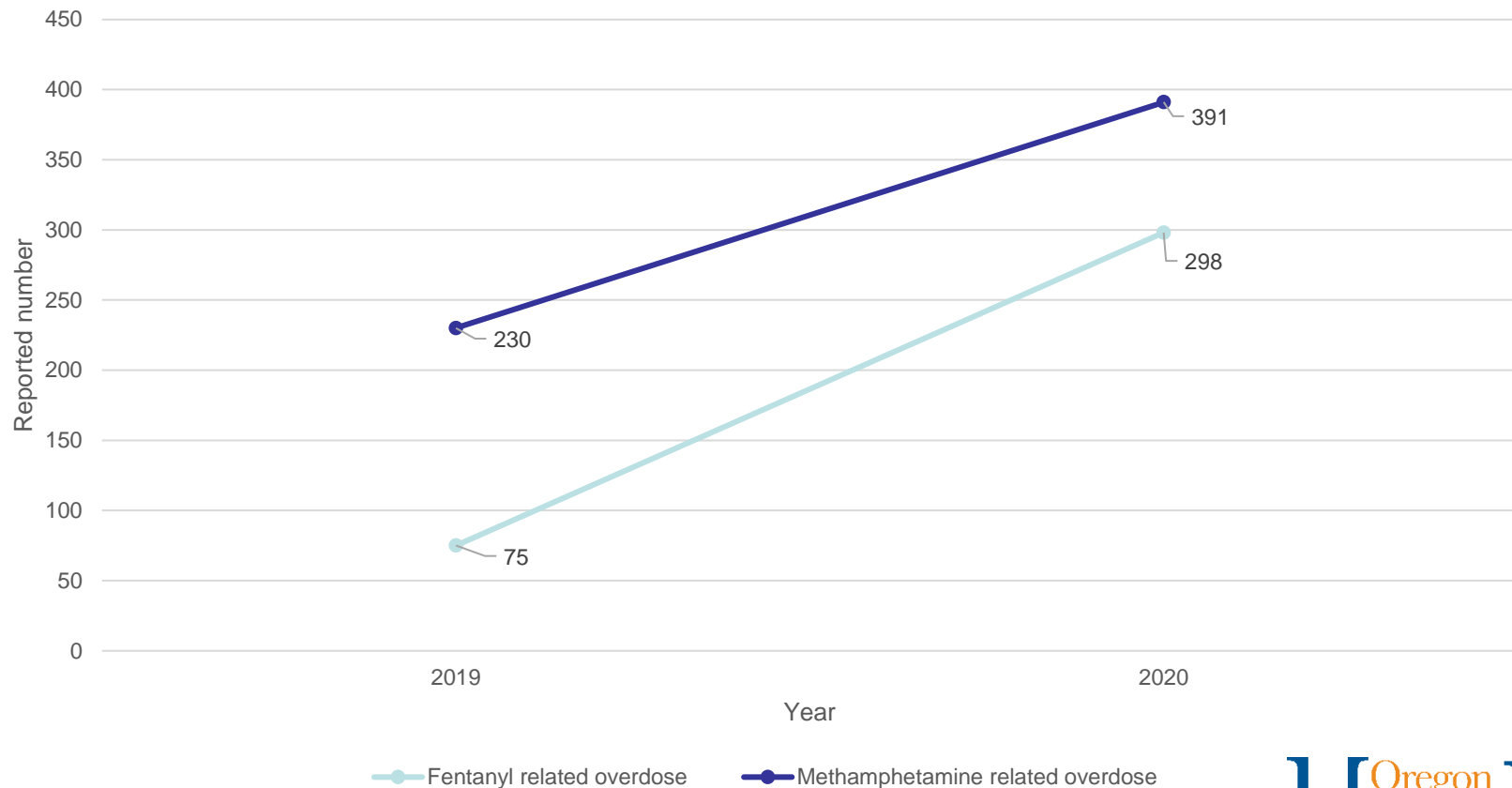


Source: SUDORS (2021 data are provisional and subject to change)



# Oregon fentanyl and stimulant overdose dramatically increased

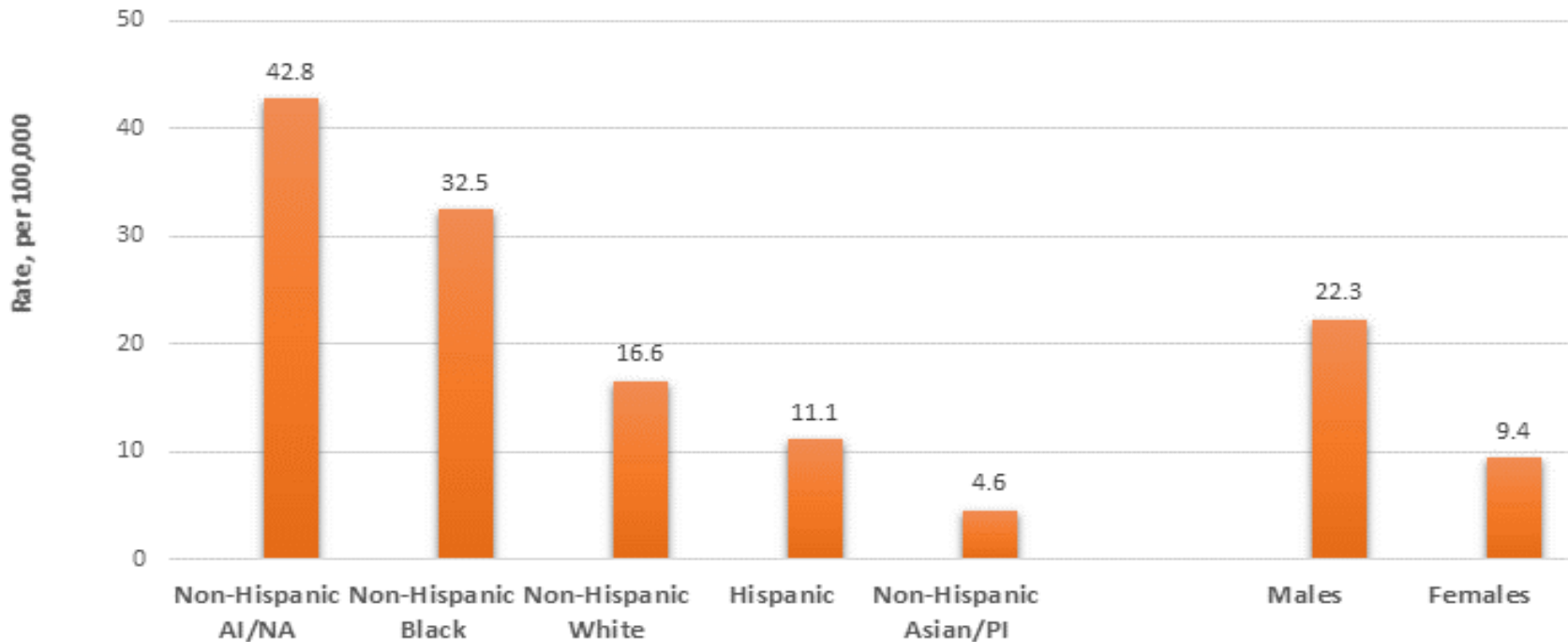
Number of fentanyl and methamphetamine related deaths by year, Oregon, 2019 - 2020



Source: Oregon State Medical Examiner 2020 and 2021 annual reports

# Some groups bear disproportionate burden of overdose death

Crude Rates of Unintentional Drug Overdose Death by Race / Ethnicity and Sex, Oregon, 2020



Source: Oregon State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

# Unintentional overdose deaths are increasing across all age groups

Unintentional/undetermined drug overdose deaths by year, Oregon, 2019-2021

Year	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45-64	Ages >=65	Total
2019	**	33	212	211	38	496
2020	5	68	312	262	56	703
2021*	12	69	340	337	60	818

\*Many overdose deaths in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 are not included

\*\*Numbers <5 are suppressed to protect potentially identifiable data

Unintentional/undetermined **fentanyl** overdose deaths by year, Oregon, 2019-2021

Year	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45-64	Ages >=65	Total
2019	0	11	48	11	**	71
2020	5	44	128	46	**	226
2021*	9	52	180	104	19	364

\*Many overdose deaths in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 are not included

\*\*Numbers <5 are suppressed to protect potentially identifiable data

# Circumstances of unintentional drug overdose deaths

- Many people who overdosed never touched the health care system  
ED and hospital visits for overdose were relatively flat.
- 70% of people who unintentionally overdosed were not administered naloxone/Narcan.
- Many people were using alone.
- One or more bystanders are often nearby (62%), yet more than half of overdoses were not directly witnessed.
- Many people died at home.

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# Factors contributing to unintentional youth overdoses

- Drug use is more dangerous, not more common.
- Counterfeit pills have increasingly become contaminated with fentanyl .
- Opioid naive youth are using counterfeit pills believed to be legitimate prescriptions, not knowing they contain fentanyl.
- Opioid naive individuals do not have tolerance for opioids and are therefore at high risk of accidental overdose and death.
- Opioid naive individuals may not be engaged in existing services for people who use drugs, may not have access to naloxone, and may not be aware of Oregon's Good Samaritan Law.

# Harm Reduction

- A social justice movement built on practical strategies aimed at reducing negative consequences of behaviors.
- Aims to “meet people where they are at” but does not leave them there or behind all alone.
- Focuses on prevention of harm, not prevention of behaviors.
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real harm and danger associated with drug use.

NSI Strategies October 13, 2022

# Fentanyl and Opioid Response Toolkit for Schools

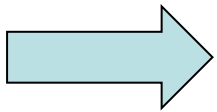
- **Goal:** To raise awareness of the fentanyl and opioid crisis and to increase availability of naloxone in school settings statewide.
  - OHA and ODE worked together to release a toolkit in May 2022 to support educators, school nurses, students and families respond to opioid overdoses (updated Aug 2022).
  - The toolkit provides guidance to schools about how to create their own policies and protocols to access, store, and administer Narcan.
  - Includes resources for teachers, students and caregivers about how to talk with youth about risks related to counterfeit pills and other opioids.

## Fentanyl and Opioid Response Toolkit for Schools



# How to Recognize Overdose Symptoms

- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow, shallow, or no breathing
- Gurgling or snoring
- Difficult to wake or can't wake
- Extreme drowsiness
- Cold, clammy skin
- Gray or blue skin, fingernails, or lips



Immediately call 9-1-1 if a person is found unconscious or an overdose is suspected.





# Naloxone saves lives

- Naloxone is a medication that works to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose when administered properly and at the right time. It is available as an injection or nasal spray.
- Naloxone can very quickly restore normal breathing.
- Immediately call 9-1-1 if a person is found unconscious or an overdose is suspected.
- Naloxone will not harm someone who is not overdosing. Anyone who administers naloxone to save a life is protected from liability under Oregon law.

# Developing a school naloxone policy and protocol

## Key content to consider for local protocols:

- District policy and local practices
- Training
- Storage
- Record keeping and information sharing
- Action steps during an event
- Follow-up, referrals, and other support

# Medication Administration in Schools

Policies and procedures for the administration of naloxone or any similar medication that is designed to rapidly reverse an overdose of an opioid drug by trained school personnel to any student or other individual on school premises who the personnel believe in good faith is experiencing an overdose of an opioid drug shall:

- Include a process to designate and supervise appropriate school personnel that takes into account when students or others are in school or at a school-sponsored activity.
- Require designated personnel to successfully complete training developed by the Oregon Health Authority on the administration naloxone every three years.
- Address the following:
  - Safe storage, accessibility, handling, disposal, record keeping, emergency medical response, and confidentiality.

[OAR 581-021-0037](#)

# Staff and School District Liability Protection

A school administrator, school nurse, teacher or other school employee designated by the school administrator is not liable in a criminal action or for civil damages as a result of the use of medication if the school administrator, school nurse, teacher or other school employee in good faith administers:

- Naloxone or any similar medication that is in any form available for safe administration and that is designed to rapidly reverse an overdose of an opioid drug to a student or other individual who the school administrator, school nurse, teacher or other school employee believes in good faith is experiencing an overdose of an opioid drug.

[ORS 339.871](#)

# Student Administration of Naloxone

- Students can receive a personal prescription and administer/dispense to another individual as anyone can in the community.
- [ORS 689.681](#) provides liability protections for an individual who administers Naloxone in good faith.
- However, the school Medication Statute and Student self-administration statute prohibit the administration of medication by a student to another person.
- This would mean a student could receive disciplinary action if they carry or administered Naloxone. ODE suggests schools use their available discretion to avoid disciplinary action.

# Pathways for schools and districts to access Narcan

1. Free Narcan for Schools program through [Direct Relief](#).
    - Contact Taryn Ouellette at 1-805-964-4767 or email [USAprograms@directrelief.org](mailto:USAprograms@directrelief.org)
  2. Purchase directly from local pharmacy.
  3. Purchase directly from Emergent BioSolutions at their discounted price of \$47.50 for two units.
    - Contact [aramorim@ebsi.com](mailto:aramorim@ebsi.com)
- Districts/schools will need a prescriber to obtain Narcan through all options above.
  - County Health Officers have supported districts who do not have medical personnel on staff.
  - OHA is also in the process of designating a prescriber to support any district or school who needs one.

More information will be shared in the updated toolkit coming soon.

# Resources for School Personnel

- *Visit the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division for resources:*  
[www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/substanceuse/opioids/pages/naloxone.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/substanceuse/opioids/pages/naloxone.aspx).
- **Oregon Health Authority, Youth Substance Use Disorders:** *visit the webpage for treatment and recovery resources.*
- **Reverse Overdose Oregon:** *Media campaign to empower employers and bystanders to recognize and respond to overdose in the workplace.*
- **Naloxone Education for School Nurses Toolkit:** *Free toolkit developed by the National Association of School Nurses.*
- **Need 4 Narcan:** *New Oregon organization whose goal is to educate and train school staff and help distribute Naloxone in communities.*

# Prevention education

- [\*\*Safety First: Real Drug Education for Teens\*\*](#) *Harm reduction-based drug education curriculum for high school students, developed by the Drug Policy Alliance.*
- [\*\*Fake & Fatal - Google Slides\*\*](#) *Includes videos for high school audience and interactive content.*
- [\*\*Fake & Fatal HS Lesson Plan- Teacher's Guide\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Sources of Strength\*\*](#) *A best practice suicide prevention project that focuses on multiple sources of support (strengths). Schools engage in work prioritized by members of the school community, with age-appropriate modules that support mental health promotion, substance use prevention, anti-bullying, and community-building.*





**Sample social media, infographics, and flyers for posting in schools**

Beaverton School District:  
[Fake and Fatal](#) campaign



Sample social media, infographics, and flyers for posting in schools

King County, Washington:  
[Laced and Lethal](#) campaign

# Song for Charlie campaign



## ONE PILL CAN KILL

REAL TALK ABOUT FAKE PILLS

- Fake pills are killing thousands of unsuspecting teens as young as 13.
- With today's social media, getting pills is as easy as ordering a pizza. The problem is, they are all FAKE!
- Fake Xanax, Oxy and Percocet are made of fentanyl ("Fentapills"); fake Adderall is made of methamphetamine ("Madderall").
- Teen drug experimentation is no longer safe. One pill can kill!
- Educate yourself about fake pills and teach your kids. It could be a matter of life or death.

### COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

 OXYCODONE <small>Made of Fentanyl</small>	<b>REAL FAKE</b>	 ADDERALL <small>Made of Methamphetamine</small>	<b>REAL FAKE</b>
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SOURCE: DEA



SCAN TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE  
[www.songforcharlie.org](http://www.songforcharlie.org)

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# FENTAPIILLS

Fake Prescription Pills Made of Fentanyl

## Everything You Need to Know



**Fentapills are everywhere.**  
You have to assume that any pill you get online or from a friend is fake. Only take pills that come from your doctor or pharmacist.



**FENTAPIILLS LOOK REAL.**  
There is no way to know if the pill you get is legit or counterfeit.

**ASSUME ALL M30s ARE FENTAPIILLS**

## ONE PILL CAN KILL.



Picture two grains of sand ~ that is how little it takes for fentanyl to kill you. That's the difference between high and die.

**You can't test fentapills.**  
There is no way to accurately test if a pill contains fentanyl. A lethal dose could be lurking in any corner of the pill.



SCAN TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE  
[www.songforcharlie.org](http://www.songforcharlie.org)

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# Other Resources in the Toolkit

- Sample letter/email to students and families available in 12 languages.
- Information to share with students and families:
  - To understand dangers of fake pills
  - To learn how to respond to an opioid overdose
  - To learn how to obtain Narcan
  - Tips for talking with teens about alcohol and drugs
  - Treatment and recovery resources
  - Suicide prevention hotlines and programs





# Questions and discussion

1. What roles do you see for yourself and your school teams?
2. What concerns do you have about a naloxone policy in your school?
3. How have you (or will you in the future) inform students and families about the concerns of fentanyl?
4. Other?

# Thank you!

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