Fentanyl Toolkit for Service Providers
June 15, 2020

FENTANYL IN OUR COMMUNITIES
Fentanyl continues to circulate in King County. Recent increases in fentanyl-involved deaths are a concerning trend. As of May 31, there were nearly double the fatalities, 70 in 2020, compared to 38 at this time in 2019, with several probable cases still pending. Public Health—Seattle & King County encourages providers to be aware of the risks and to share this information widely.

Locally, fentanyl is most commonly seen in fake pills made to look like oxycodone or Percocet. They are typically blue or green with a “M30” stamp. The amount of fentanyl within the same batch or even within a single pill can vary greatly, leading to greater risk. People may not even know a pill contains the deadly drug.

Fentanyl deaths occur across King County. Compared to other overdose deaths, fentanyl-involved overdoses more commonly occur among people who are younger, housed, male, and live outside the downtown Seattle corridor.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
1. Post educational materials. Our fentanyl awareness materials (see page 2) can be printed or ordered for free at kingcounty.gov/overdose. Materials are available in 12 languages.

2. Order naloxone for your agency. King County is currently offering injectable naloxone to community service providers to distribute to clients; kits can be ordered here. Nasal naloxone kits are also available for on-site overdose response (not distribution), and can be ordered here.

3. Sign up for email and text alerts about overdose and changes in the drug supply.

4. Stay up-to-date on data with our fatal and nonfatal overdose dashboards.
5. **Share these key messages with clients:**
   - Any amount of fentanyl can be fatal.
   - Any pill that is not prescribed to you may be counterfeit and contain fentanyl. Fentanyl may also be in white powder and black tar.
   - Avoid using drugs alone. If this is not an option, have someone check on you regularly or use a service like [neverusealone.com](http://neverusealone.com).
   - Have naloxone ready. You can get naloxone at pharmacies or needle exchanges. Find naloxone near you at [stopoverdose.org](http://stopoverdose.org).
   - If you suspect an overdose, call 911 right away. The Good Samaritan Law protects you and the person overdosing from drug possession charges.
   - Methadone and buprenorphine are effective medications to treat opioid use disorder. Starting medication is now easier than ever. Currently, you can connect with a buprenorphine provider via phone or online. Call the WA Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511 to get started.

6. **Access all of these resources and more at** [kingcounty.gov/overdose](http://kingcounty.gov/overdose).

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