



FENTANYL UPDATE

Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force

May 2nd, 2022

What Are Opioids?

- Class of drugs which attach to opioid receptors in the brain to provide a variety of effects, including relief of pain
- Comes in both prescription and unregulated/illicit forms

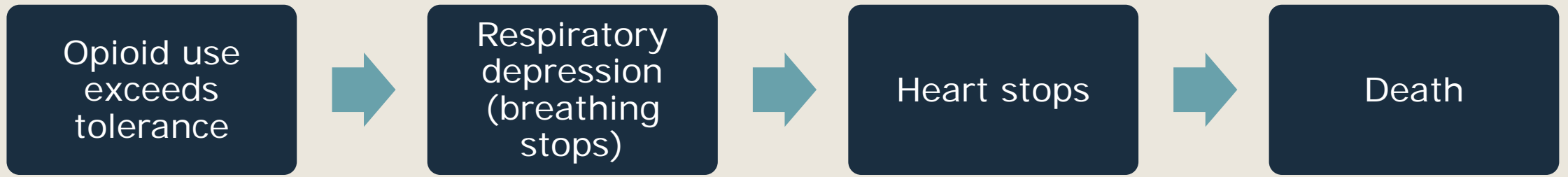
Examples of opioids:

- *Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Norco)*
- *Oxycodone (Percocet, OxyContin)*
- *Morphine (MS Contin)*
- *Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)*
- *Heroin*
- *Fentanyl*

What Is Fentanyl?

- A synthetic opioid
 - *50-100 times stronger than morphine*
- Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed to manage pain in cancer patients
- Most fentanyl we see today is made in clandestine labs, not regulated pharmaceutically
- Can be used on its own, or mixed in with other substances (sometimes unknowingly)

Opioid Overdoses



- *Naloxone (Narcan®)* can be used to respond to an in-progress opioid overdose
- Fentanyl poses an increased risk for overdose
 - *Much stronger than other opioids*
 - *May be used unknowingly, especially if mixed in with another substance*

Fentanyl Specific Concerns

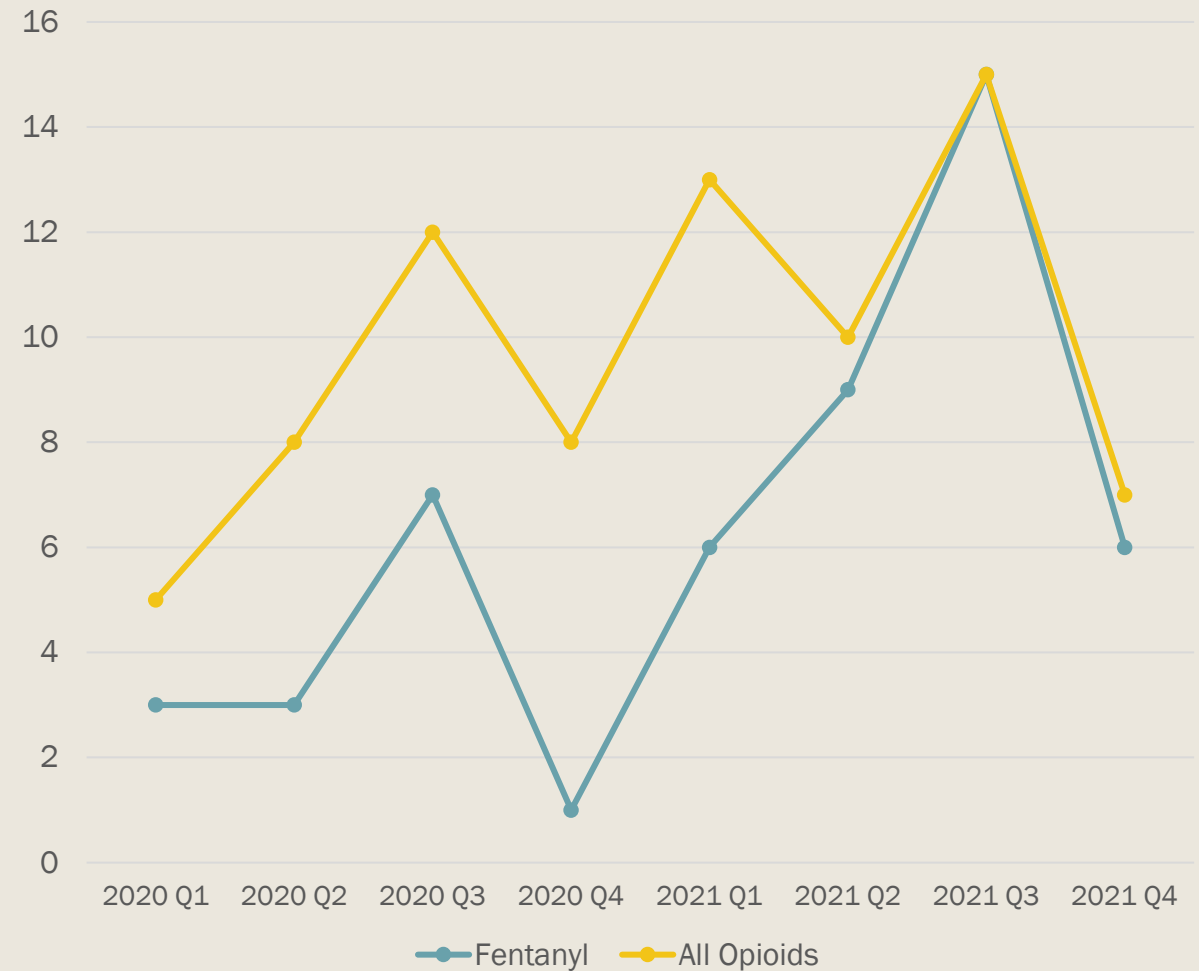
- Cannot cause an overdose just by touching the substance
 - *Not absorbed well through the skin*
- May require additional doses of naloxone to intervene during an overdose
 - *This may be more doses than an individual has available*
- Lethal in very small amounts
 - *Can be hard to detect when mixed in with other substances*

Opioid Response Task Force Strategies

- Increase information to partners and the community on fentanyl and the associated increased risks of overdose.
- Expand access to naloxone through services and systems that have direct contact with individuals at risk for overdose.
- Improve understanding of opioid overdose prevention, recognition, response, and naloxone use among partners and the community.
- Expand available education to local pharmacies on naloxone access, Washington's statewide standing order, and insurance coverage for naloxone.
- Increase available education on stimulant overdose/overamping.

Fentanyl Overdose Deaths

Number of Thurston County Resident Deaths
from Fentanyl and All Opioids, 2020-2021



Source: Death Certificates

More Information/Resources

■ Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force

- *Local efforts to address the opioid epidemic*
- <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/opioid-response.aspx>

■ Stop Overdose

- *Information on overdose recognition, response, & naloxone administration from the University of Washington's Addictions, Drug, & Alcohol Institute*
- <https://stopoverdose.org>

■ WA Recovery Help Line

- *Interactive Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) locator map and anonymous 24/7 helpline dedicated to helping find available treatment options*
- <https://www.warecoveryhelpline.org>

Contact Information

Thurston County Opioid Response Program

- Katie Strozyk
Opioid Response Coordinator
(360) 878-1261
katie.strozyk@co.thurston.wa.us

Additional Information Presented By:

- Wayne Graham
Prosecuting Attorney's Office
wayne.graham@co.thurston.wa.us
- Ben Miller-Todd
Emergency Services
ben.miller-todd@co.thurston.wa.us
- Monica Miley
Syringe Services Program
monica.miley@co.thurston.wa.us