



Parent/Community Fentanyl Presentation

Activity One (5 minutes)

Purpose: Introduction and engagement

Show Slide 1

The officer will begin by introducing themselves and their connection to the school/community – they may want to have school leadership or a representative give a welcome and introduction at the beginning of the lesson to set the tone. Once the introductions and welcomes are complete, the lesson will begin.

Please include this statement in the introduction:

The D.A.R.E. program began in 1983 to combat the drug epidemic that was impacting families throughout the nation. Since that time, D.A.R.E. has existed in thousands of communities across the United States and around the world. Today it is a K-12 evidence-based curriculum, led by law enforcement officers, that is focused on teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives.

Officer: This is a lesson that has been made available by D.A.R.E. for all communities, even those who may not have an active D.A.R.E. program in their school, in recognition of a crisis that is endangering students across the country.

I'm here today to talk to you about the growing problem of fentanyl.

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Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid made in a lab, not grown in nature. It is significantly more potent than morphine. It is primarily used for managing severe pain in medical settings. However, this illicit fentanyl made in unregulated "labs" which may be run by drug cartels is increasingly mixed with other drugs, including counterfeit pills. Its safety, strength, and purity are unknown.

I'm sure you have heard of fentanyl. Some of you may be very concerned about the risk to your children. Some of you may not know much about it, and are here to learn more.

Today I hope to answer some of your questions, and help you understand the risks.

Activity Two (10 minutes)

Purpose: Explore & Explain the idea that “*The Game Has Changed*” - with *One Pill Can Kill* message and Fentapill Facts message – target: clarifying consequences

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Fentanyl is a **game-changer** substance - meaning it changes the rules, it creates a life-or-death risk out of every single “drug experimentation” decision. Has anyone heard the phrase “*One Pill Can Kill?*” It’s a campaign started by the Drug Enforcement Agency and adopted by organizations nationwide. It’s not an exaggeration.

Show Slide 4

Show *One Pill Can Kill* resource with Fentanyl lethality facts – dea.gov/onepill

This is a great resource to learn and share current and trusted information. It’s free to use and adapt for your own school or community campaigns because it’s created and distributed by a federal agency – our tax dollars at work.

Show Slide 5

This video talks about one specific risk to young people – counterfeit pills.

Play Video - Fentapill Facts – 3:53 <https://youtu.be/Rc-jLOfqmvo>

The same video in English with Spanish subtitles: <https://youtu.be/Rc-jLOfqmvo>

In English with English captioning: <https://youtu.be/2p4mDbGN4NI>

The same video in Spanish: https://youtu.be/C7BBdiZd6_U

You may want to offer an opportunity for discussion or questions about video here:

- **What did you learn about counterfeit pills? Was anyone surprised about this?**

Discussion may include:

Counterfeit pills, sometimes called “fentapills,” are produced to resemble legitimate prescription pills used to deliver medication. They are produced illegally and may contain incorrect or dangerous ingredients. Counterfeit pills are commonly sold on the black market or through illegal online pharmacies.

- **Why are counterfeit pills dangerous?**

Discussion may include:

- Inaccurate dosage: Counterfeit pills may contain too much or too little active ingredient, making them unpredictable and potentially harmful.

- *Unknown ingredients: Counterfeit pills can be manufactured with different substances, including dangerous chemicals, which can have severe health consequences.*
- *Lack of quality control: Different from regulated pharmaceuticals, counterfeit pills are produced without quality control measures, increasing the risk of contamination or improper manufacturing processes.*

– **Why is fentanyl so dangerous:**

Discussion may include:

- *High potency: Fentanyl is highly potent; even small amounts can cause an overdose or death.*
- *Unpredictability: Fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs, making it challenging to know its precise presence and dosage, increasing the risk of accidental overdose.*
- *Hidden in counterfeit pills: Fentanyl is frequently found in fake pills made to resemble prescription opioids, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone. Users may unknowingly ingest fentanyl when seeking other substances.*

Activity Three (15 minutes)

Purpose: Connect with faces behind the facts with case studies about teens (from Song for Charlie or DEA materials) – target: building empathy

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One organization that shares the DEA *One Pill Can Kill* message is **Song for Charlie**. Each parent involved in this organization has lost a child to fentanyl. Here is one of their stories.

Present a case study or youth example from Song for Charlie – slide 8 features “Zach’s story but you can choose another story from the resources at the link below. Charlie’s story “One Pill: The Dangers of Fentanyl” is also available with Spanish subtitles, but may be a bit repetitive if added to the video on slide 9.

Song for Charlie resources: <https://www.songforcharlie.org/toolkit>

Zach’s story – 8:21 <https://youtu.be/JMRo-QdwRjs>

Questions for Discussion:

- What were the circumstances leading up to this event?
- Do you think they could have expected this to happen? Why or why not?
- What do you think his family would have wanted to know?
- If you could share something you’ve learned, what would it be?

Activity Three (20 - 30 minutes)

Purpose: Explain – Talking to Teens about Fentanyl, skills practice correcting misperceptions – target: Beliefs about Consequences.

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Officer: Something that can put young people at risk is the misperceptions they have about risk. Let's take an opportunity to use some of the facts we've used today to practice addressing these misperceptions in conversations with teens.

Instructions:

- Everyone find a conversation partner. You'll remain partnered for the entire activity.
- I will reveal a question or statement on each slide.
- Each conversation partner should take turns acting as the adult and teen. Spend 2-3 minutes in each role. Share the facts you've learned to calmly provide new information to correct the misinformation. A few tips:
 - Keep the tone informational and caring; don't make it a lecture.
 - It's important to listen and respond respectfully, never ridicule their mistakes or point of view – they are learning and you want them to feel comfortable learning from you.
 - Stick to the facts that you know. If you don't know, acknowledge that you don't and offer to do some research with them. Don't exaggerate or make things up – it will only damage your credibility with them later.

Topics from Slide 8-12:

- Aren't prescription pills safer to take than "street drugs"?
- What if I have a prescription for the pills I am taking?
- What if I've taken one before and nothing bad happened?
- I know people who have bought pills on social media before, and nothing terrible happened/My friend knows someone safe we can buy from on social media
- Can't Narcan revive people from a fentanyl overdose? (use to discuss xylazine adulteration)

Officer: Did the last question feel tricky? That might have been an opportunity for some of you to acknowledge that you didn't know the answer. Let's talk more about Narcan, and about other adulterants like xylazine:

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- Narcan is a drug that can help reverse opioid overdose. Because fentanyl is so powerful, it can take multiple doses and still may not work.
- Increasingly, even the fentanyl supply is being tainted with a drug called xylazine. This drug is not an opioid, and Narcan does not work to revive a person who has overdosed on this drug.

Activity Four (5 minutes)

Purpose: Summarize Take-Home Messages, share any local resources, answer questions

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To summarize what we've learned today, it's important to walk out of here with two big ideas. What do you think they are?

Solicit a few responses from the audience about what they believe to be the most important pieces of information they are taking home with them.

These are great thoughts, thank you for sharing them. Here are mine.

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Summary statements:

- Even a one-time “experimental” use of prescription pills can be fatal if they are adulterated with fentanyl, and unless they are prescribed to you, and you got them from a pharmacy, you don't know!
- It's critical that you talk to your children and young people about this risk. Even if you don't think your child would do this, please make sure that you understand and they understand that fentanyl may be in almost any pill or other drug out there, and it is very dangerous.

Officer Note:

This would be a good opportunity to offer or involve local resources that are available. You may have community organizations or coalitions that will share materials that you can distribute, local statistics, you may have data or stories that will help make the presentation feel more relevant for your audience.

Feel free to incorporate these into the presentation, they will increase interest and effectiveness for the families who attend, and enhance the conversations they have with their children.