



FLASH REPORT

August 16, 2019

An Urgent Public Health Activity Report Within Jackson County

In This Issue

- Synthetic Fentanyl Pill Seizure

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Synthetic Fentanyl Pill Seizure

The Medford Police Department has released information on a seizure that occurred on July 28, 2019, in Jackson County. The Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement detectives made a stop that resulted in a seizure of 60,000 to 80,000 illegal synthetic fentanyl pills. These pills were made to mimic the appearance of Oxycodone 30 pills; they were similar in size, color and markings.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent.¹ It is important to understand that people who use synthetic fentanyl illegally are at an increased risk of overdosing. Communities can see increases in overdoses and/or clusters of overdoses due to synthetic fentanyl. Synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are now the most common drugs involved in drug overdose deaths in the United States.¹

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the illegally used fentanyl most often associated with recent overdoses is made in labs.¹ This synthetic fentanyl is sold illegally as a powder, dropped onto blotter paper, put in eye droppers and nasal sprays, or made into pills that look like other prescription opioids.¹ Street names for illegally used fentanyl include Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Jackpot, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash.¹

Jackson County has not seen an increase in overdoses or a cluster of overdoses related to heroin and/or fentanyl in the last two weeks. Jackson County Public Health will continue to monitor and issue overdose alerts through their Heroin and Fentanyl Overdose and Alerting System.

Resources:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment Provider Location:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/practitioner-program-data/treatment-practitioner-locator>
- How to get naloxone:
 - Prescription from a medical provider
 - Any pharmacist in Oregon can prescribe naloxone to a person.
 - People who utilize the Jackson County Public Health Syringe Exchange Program can receive free naloxone
 - Free naloxone is available through Max's Mission community meetings and events.

The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents.



REFERENCES

- NIDA. Fentanyl. National Institute on Drug Abuse website. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>. February 28, 2019. Accessed August 15, 2019.