




Talking with young people about fentanyl **helps to protect them.**

Young people have different levels of knowledge or experiences related to fentanyl. Some have none. As parents and other caring adults in kids' lives, we can provide information and support to help protect them.

Adjust your conversations based on the child's age and experiences. But no matter what, it's important to give them honest information and tell them you're there for them.

FOR OUR LIVES



Listen, be honest, and keep checking in.

You can talk about fentanyl anytime.

It doesn't have to be the "right time" — just a time when you both can focus, like during a meal or a car ride.

You could ease into it with a question, like "Can we talk about something that's on my mind?"

Or, with some kids, a direct approach might work best, like: "We should talk about fentanyl, because we're seeing it hurt people in our community (or Tribe or family)."

Ask them if they feel like sharing what they know and what questions they have.

Listen to them. Answer their questions honestly.

Avoid judging kids, their friends, or their relatives.

People shut down when they feel judged or defensive of people they love.

Remind them they're strong and able to make their own decisions.

They have control over whether they use substances, including fentanyl.

Let them know you care about them.

Remind them you'll be there to support them.

Keep checking in.

Ongoing short conversations can work better than one "big talk."

Share information they need to know.

Fentanyl is in the drug supply.

It's invisible, and you can't taste, smell, or see it.

Fentanyl is commonly mixed with other drugs sold on social media and on the street.

It can be mixed with heroin. It can be in fake pills that look like oxycodone (oxy), Percocet, Adderall, or Xanax. It can be in other drugs. Sometimes people don't know they're taking it.

A tiny amount of fentanyl can cause a fatal overdose.

Anyone can learn the signs of overdose and learn to use naloxone to save a life at ForNativeLives.org/overdose.

There's no safe way to get illegally made fentanyl, even if it's from someone you trust.

No matter where people get illegal pills, powders, or drugs in any form, they can overdose. If one pill doesn't cause an overdose, the next one could.

Fentanyl is a powerful and addictive opioid – far stronger than heroin or oxy.

Many people get addicted faster than they expect.

Opioid misuse often starts with people using medication not meant for them.

Kids who find prescription opioids should never take or taste them.

Carrying naloxone can save lives.

Anyone can carry naloxone, also called Narcan, and use it to reverse a fentanyl overdose to save someone's life. Young people can learn what an opioid overdose looks like, call 911, and use naloxone to reverse an overdose.

Under Washington law, they won't face drug-possession charges — even if there are drugs present — when they call for help to save a life. Many Tribes have similar laws.



Learn the signs of overdose
and where to get naloxone at
[ForNativeLives.org/overdose.](https://ForNativeLives.org/overdose)

