

BELLEVILLE AREA CARES COALITION AODA PREVENTION NEWSLETTER JULY 2023

Fentanyl

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine and there are two different types of fentanyl pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

- Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer.
- Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl: Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) is available on the drug market in different forms, including liquid and powder.

Powdered fentanyl looks just like many other drugs. It is commonly mixed with drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine and made into pills that are made to resemble other prescription opioids. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous, and many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl.

Lacing Drugs with Fentanyl

Some drug dealers are mixing fentanyl with other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA. This is because it takes very little to produce a high with fentanyl, making it a cheaper option. This is especially risky when people taking drugs don't realize they might contain fentanyl as a cheap but dangerous additive.

Early in 2022, the DEA conducted a nationwide operational surge to target the trafficking of fentanyl-



laced fake prescription pills and, in just over three months, seized 10.2 million fake pills in all 50 states. These pills are largely made by two Mexican drug cartels, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco (CJNG) Cartel, to look identical to real prescription medications, including OxyContin®, Percocet®, and Xanax®. The DEA also found that 6 out of 10 of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills seized that year had a potential lethal dose of fentanyl.

Xylazine

Xylazine, also known as "tranq," "tranq dope," or "zombie drug," is a sedative and muscle relaxant drug that comes in a clear liquid and is used to put animals to sleep for surgery in veterinary medicine. It is not currently a federally-controlled substance and is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human use.

Effects on Humans:

It is structurally similar to clonidine and similarly acts as a central nervous system (CNS) depressant. Thus, signs and symptoms of acute xylazine toxicity strongly resemble an overdose on opioids, benzodiazepines or other human CNS depressants. These symptoms include:

- Respiratory depression
- Low blood pressure
- Slowed heart rate
- Hypothermia
- Pupil constriction
- Sometimes, high blood sugar levels
- The pupil constriction and respiratory depression are particularly of concern, as these are very common and widely understood effects of an opioid overdose.

Severe, necrotic skin ulcerations are the most striking side effect of xylazine. Notably, while these skin ulcerations may appear at the site of injection, they may appear at a completely different site on the body altogether. Soft tissue infections are often associated with IV drug use of more conventional illicit substances such as opioids, but these are almost always located at the injection site.

Fentanyl and Xylazine



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine. Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning. Because xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects. Still, experts always recommend administering naloxone if someone might be suffering from drug overdose.



Fourth of the July

Dangers of Drinking on the 4th of July

- Daytime drinking is a recipe for dehydration:
 Alcohol is a diuretic, meaning it increases
 urination that speeds up the dehydration process,
 and it also lowers your body's tolerance for heat
 while raising blood pressure—the perfect recipe
 for heat stroke and other serious health issues.
- Daytime drinking raises the risk of sunburn: One of the most surprising side effects of prolonged day drinking is the increased risk of sunburn.



- Alcohol metabolizes into a compound called acetaldehyde, which can make your body more vulnerable to the sun's UV rays.
- Losing track of alcohol consumption: Warm weather exacerbates the situation if you're drinking to satisfy thirst because you might consume drinks faster than usual. It takes your body about an hour to process one drink, so that's a good consumption limit to aim for and easy to achieve if you alternate alcoholic drinks with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Risk of injury: Summer parties and barbecues are often environments ripe with accident potential, including burns from hot grills, cuts from dropped knives, and injuries from playing games and sports especially when judgment and coordination are diminished by the consumption of alcohol.

Drunk Driving on the 4th of the July

With the Fourth of July holiday coming up, you're probably thinking of how you are planning to celebrate. Whether it's a trip to the beach, a barbecue with friends, or camping with your family, the Fourth of July is always a momentous holiday where friends and family join together to celebrate the birth of our nation. However on the Fourth of July we also, sadly, see an increase in impaired driving crashes.

The Fourth of July is one of the deadliest and most dangerous holidays for DUI fatalities. From 2017 to 2021, there were 1,460 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the 4th of July holiday period. 38% (552) of the drivers killed during those years were alcohol-impaired (with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), and nearly half (44%) of the drivers killed aged 21-34 were drunk.

Drinking and Fireworks

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 180 people go to the emergency room every day with firework-related injuries in the month around the 4th of July holiday with 57 percent of injuries involving burns. All too often, Independence Day festivities can lead to excessive alcohol use; just like driving and drinking is a bad combination, shooting consumer fireworks and drinking any quantity of alcohol absolutely is a bad combination.

Safety Tips for the Fourth of July

- If you plan to drink, make a plan ahead of time for a sober ride home.
- Even if you've had only one drink, let someone who hasn't been drinking take you home. A sober driver is one who does not drink at all, not the one who's had the least to drink.
- If you're hosting a Fourth of July gathering, help the designated drivers out by making sure there are plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.



- Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, safely pull over and call 911.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Pace Yourself. If you're going to start drinking early in the day (which man people do), it's important
 that you pace yourself
 - Set a limit to the number of drinks you'll consume and alternate with non-alcoholic beverages.
- Don't drink and light. Alcohol and pyrotechnics don't mix; if you're going to set off a few sparklers and roman candles, make sure you either do it before you start drinking or ensure that the person in charge of lighting fireworks is sober

Alcohol Free Fourth of July Activities

- Attend a Community Event: There are often plenty of activities going on around the Fourth of July, from parades and concerts to festivals and fairs. Check your local paper or online calendar of events to see what's happening in your area.
- Go for a hike or bike ride. Enjoy the beautiful weather and get some exercise at the same time!
- Go to the beach or pool. Spend a day swimming, sunbathing, and playing games with friends or family.
- Have a Movie Marathon. Get together with your sober friends and have a screening of everyone's favorite movies.
- Have a picnic. Pack your favorite snacks and non-alcoholic drinks and find a spot in your local park to relax and soak up the sun.

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Brat Day	Federal	Honor	Ratified	Universal
Carnival	Fireworks	Independence	Revolutionary	
Celebration	Flag	Jefferson	Sherman	
Colonies	Fourth	July	Sovereign	
Concert	Franklin	Legal	Sparkle	
Cook Out	Freedom	Liberty	Stars	

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Belleville is a small community southwest of Madison in Dane and Green Counties. Belleville is a special place to visit because of its natural beauty, recreational activities and friendly people and atmosphere. Belleville is a great community for families seeking a solid educational system along with the natural amenities of the community.

The Belleville Area Cares Coalition came into existence following a town hall meeting in April of 2014.

We are comprised of local representatives from schools, businesses, churches, village administration as well as parents, and youth—all working together to promote healthy lifestyles

More information can be found at: https://www.bellevillewicares.org/

The Belleville Area Cares
Coalition works to develop,
implement and support
environmental strategies to
reduce substance abuse.

We believe by working together, we can nurture social and environmental changes to make the Belleville area a safer and healthier place, brightening the future of our children, youth and families.



BACC meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:45 pm.

BACC Mission Statement

"The mission of Belleville's Area Cares Coalition is to promote a healthy community for youth and young adults, free of alcohol and other drug abuse."

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The BAAC asks you to give the gift of time. Make a difference in the lives of our youth and our community by

- Working with us in providing support for planning, project management and awareness campaigns
- 2. Helping with coalition events, conferences, workshops, and fairs held throughout the year.
- 3. Being a voice for change in our community, it is time to come together and be that force for change in the Belleville area.