

What you need to know about...

FENTANYL

What's the problem?



Ontario has the highest dispensing rate of any province



The equivalent of two grains of salt can cause death



Fentanyl-related deaths in Ontario more than doubled from 45 in 2008 to 110 in 2013

* Street names include: china white, green beans, and greenies

Where are people getting it?



From Prescribers

Doctors prescribe fentanyl as long-term pain relief usually in the form of a transdermal patch.



Diverted Prescriptions

After a patch is used it still has fentanyl on it. People can extract this medicine and use it or re-sell it.



Imported from Abroad

Fentanyl is illicitly being brought into Canada and sold as a powder, a pill, or unknowingly mixed into other substances (e.g. cocaine, heroin).

What can you do?

- Educate your clients about the facts in this poster
- Encourage safer drug use practices
- Help your clients connect with a pharmacy to get a free naloxone kit

Sources: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (2015). CCENDU Bulletin: Deaths involving fentanyl in Canada 2009-2014. Fischer, B., et al. (2015). Prescription opioids, abuse and public health in Canada: is fentanyl the new centre of the opioid crisis? *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*. Gomes, T., et al. (2014). Trends in high-dose opioid prescribing in Canada. *Canadian Family Physician*. 60, 826-32.