

ALLIANCE NEWS



Alliance for Better Communities

SPECIAL EDITION FEBRUARY 2019

OVERDOSE DEATHS: COMBINATIONS OF FENTANYL, HEROIN AND COCAINE CAUSE THE MOST

By: Martin J. Rothschild, J.D.



The National Center for Health Statistics reports that most fatal drug overdoses over the last several years have been due to opioid abuse.¹ Fentanyl and heroin have been the drugs most commonly involved, but there has also been a surprising increase in deaths attributable to cocaine, a stimulant.²

Most staggering is the rise in the number of deaths attributed to fentanyl, a synthetic opioid. Between 2013 and 2016, the death rate from fentanyl overdoses increased 113 per cent each year.³

In 2011, the prescription narcotic oxycodone was found to be the opioid most often involved in overdoses.⁴ However, from 2012 to 2015, heroin became the top drug in overdose deaths, and fentanyl became the top cause in 2016.⁵ Cocaine was the second or third most common cause of overdose deaths every year from 2011 to 2016, and the death rate for this stimulant doubled from 2014 to 2016.⁶

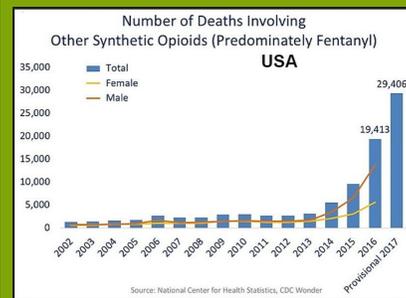
FENTANYL

It has been calculated that 25 million people could be killed by just 118 pounds of fentanyl.⁷ It has become the most dangerous opioid, and deaths in the United States linked to its use grew more than 50 percent to 29,406 in 2017 from 19,413 in 2016 according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).⁸ Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and is actually used as an elephant tranquilizer.⁹



Vision: To have a community that is fully committed to the health and safety of its residents.

Mission: To reduce underage drinking and substance abuse and expeditiously address any emerging threats.





Fentanyl is often mixed with heroin, increasing the lethality and danger of injection by first-time users as well as addicts. The fentanyl and related analogs associated with recent overdoses have mostly been produced in clandestine laboratories.¹⁰ Non-pharmaceutical versions are not only mixed with heroin, they are sold as a powder; spiked on blotter paper; substituted for heroin; or distributed as tablets that mimic other, less-potent opioids.¹¹ Naloxone, also produced as the nasal spray Narcan, which is used to reverse overdoses, is less effective with fentanyl than with other opioids and must be administered in higher doses to

prevent death.¹²

HEROIN

While fentanyl has overtaken heroin alone as the leading cause of overdose deaths, heroin remains a killer, especially when mixed with fentanyl. Significantly, about 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.¹³ When doctors began overprescribing legal painkillers such as OxyContin in the 1990s, abusers seeking a greater high turned to heroin, a readily available street drug.

The rate of overdoses on heroin remained fairly consistent until about 2012 but have sharply increased since then.¹⁴ Dealers routinely mislead addicts into believing they are getting pure heroin when in fact they are being supplied with a mixture that includes fentanyl or one of its analogs. Consequently, many addicts who think they are injecting heroin are actually putting a far-deadlier combination of the drug and some version of fentanyl into their bloodstreams. The risk for fatal overdose is dramatically increased.¹⁵



COCAINE



While opioids receive the most attention as the culprit in overdose deaths, there has been a disturbing rise in deaths attributable to cocaine. The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, has reported that from 2015 to 2016, cocaine-related deaths rose 52.4%.¹⁶ As with heroin, there has been a substantial increase in the number of users knowingly, or unknowingly, ingesting cocaine laced with other, more deadly drugs. Cocaine mixed with heroin is particularly dangerous, and is known by the street name “speed balling.” Many of the deaths resulting from this combination of drugs occur because users feel less vulnerable to heroin overdose as a result of the stimulating effects of their cocaine intake.

Combinations of deadly drugs have created a national health crisis that will tax the resources of the law enforcement, medical, and rehabilitation communities for many years to come.

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#Wear Blue Day, January 11, 2019, to Raise Awareness about Human Trafficking



#Wear Blue Day, Members of the Family and Recovery Committee of the Alliance

COURSE OFFERED TO JEFFERSON COUNTY AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

The Child Advocacy Center of NNY offers training to all child-serving professionals to teach how to protect and prevent at-risk youth from becoming victims of sex trafficking and to improve their safety. The training is provided in two 2-hour sessions.

Part 1 will provide functional knowledge about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and **Part 2** will reinforce skills for working with survivors. Training sessions can be arranged by contacting Kiley Hilyer at 315-755-1457.

JANUARY ALLIANCE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Wanda Holtz, Director of Anchor Recovery Center, delivers the monthly report



Kiley Hilyer, Lead Advocate for Child Advocacy Center, discusses child trafficking in the North Country.



Bob Gorman, President/CEO United Way of Northern N.Y., speaks about Out of Poverty Initiative.



Friend in the Fight Award goes to Ft. Drum Regional Health Planning Organization



Leesa Harvey-Dowdle Receives Award on behalf of FDRHPO



Anita Seefried-Brown leads the meeting

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UPCOMING EVENT:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Protect Our Children

Sunday, January 27, 2019, 1:30-3:30 PM

Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph
1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601

Speakers are Victoria Recor and Salka Valerio, Child Sex Trafficking Survivor

State law requires drug take-back programs start this week

Watertown Daily Times

By OLIVIA BELANGER
OBELANGER@WDT.NET
PUBLISHED: FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019 AT 12:30 AM

Stephen A. Jennings, chairman of the Alliance for Better Communities, said this law will be a vital pillar in the continuous local fight to reduce drug abuse.
"For people addicted to opioids, the first supply often comes from a friend or family member who has a significant supply of medication left over. The drug take-back program will go a long way to cut off that source," Mr. Jennings said.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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CHAIRMAN JENNINGS DISCUSSES ADVERSE EFFECTS OF POVERTY ON CHILDREN, AND BENEFITS OF DRUG TAKE-BACK LAW



Poverty's effect on children's education, ranking finds north country districts at risk

By OLIVIA BELANGER
OBELANGER@WDT.NET
Watertown Daily Times

PUBLISHED: SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019 AT 12:30 A

Stephen A. Jennings, public health planner for Jefferson County Public Health Service, said poverty has been a leading disparity in the north country for several years. Though these issues are challenging, Mr. Jennings said school districts have been addressing them head-on.