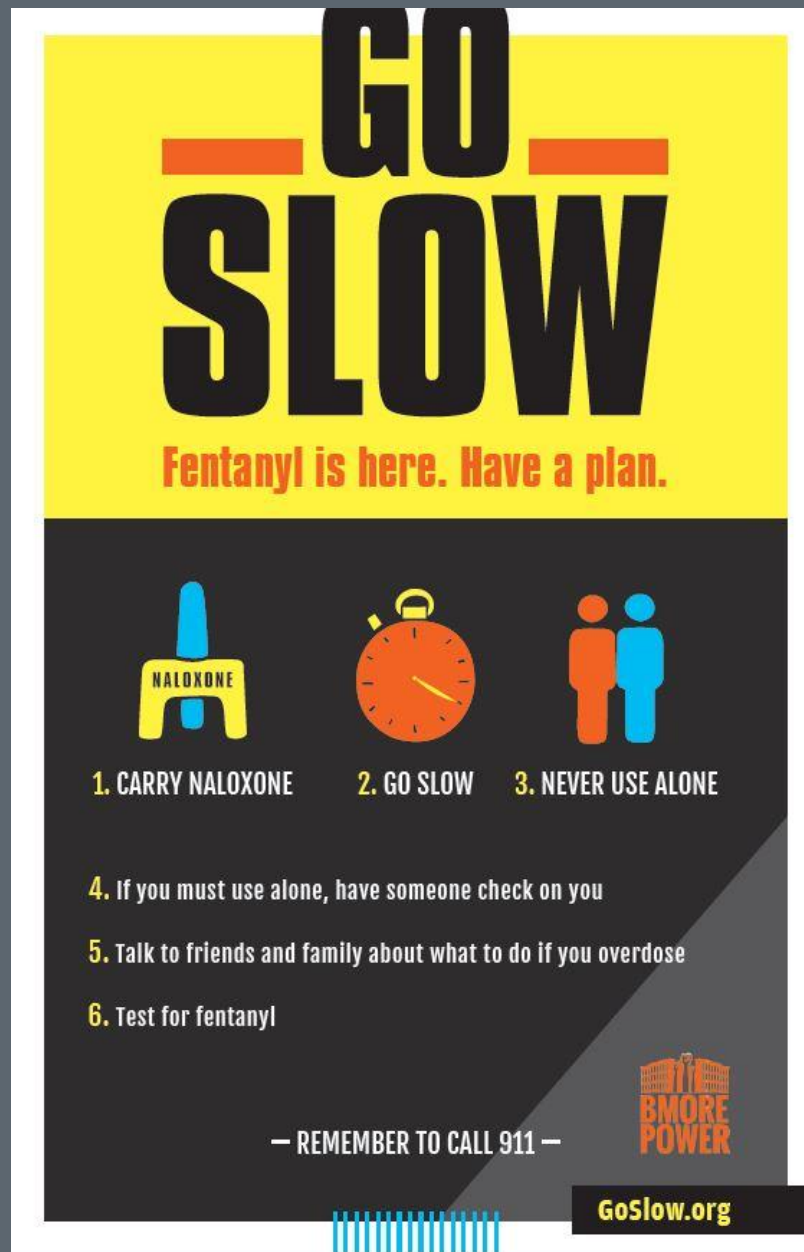


# Fentanyl and Harm Reduction

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Overdose Prevention Unit  
Violence and Injury Prevention- Mental Health Promotion Branch  
Prevention Services Division




**GO SLOW**

Fentanyl is here. Have a plan.

 **NALOXONE**            

1. CARRY NALOXONE
2. GO SLOW
3. NEVER USE ALONE
4. If you must use alone, have someone check on you
5. Talk to friends and family about what to do if you overdose
6. Test for fentanyl

— REMEMBER TO CALL 911 —

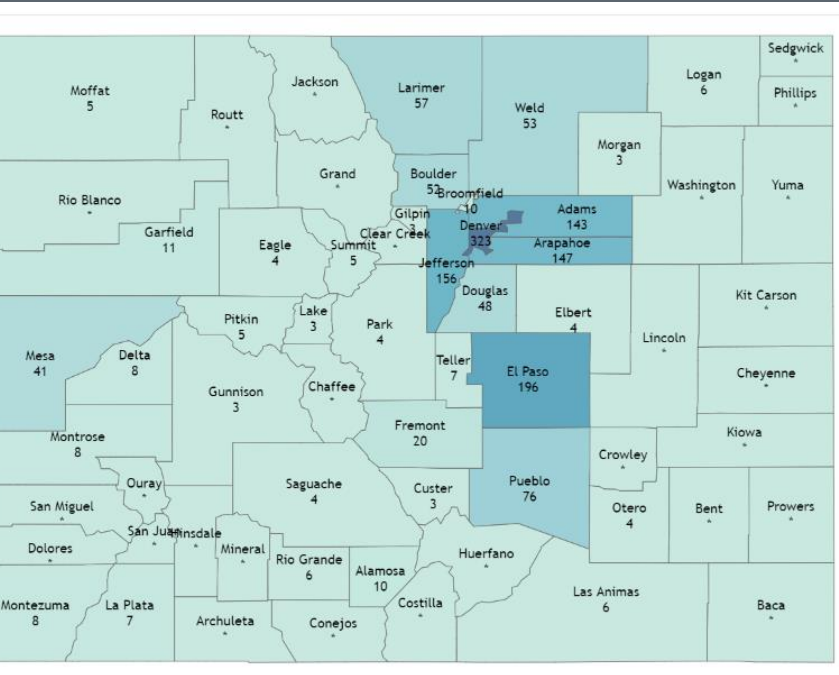
 **BMORE POWER**

[GoSlow.org](http://GoSlow.org)

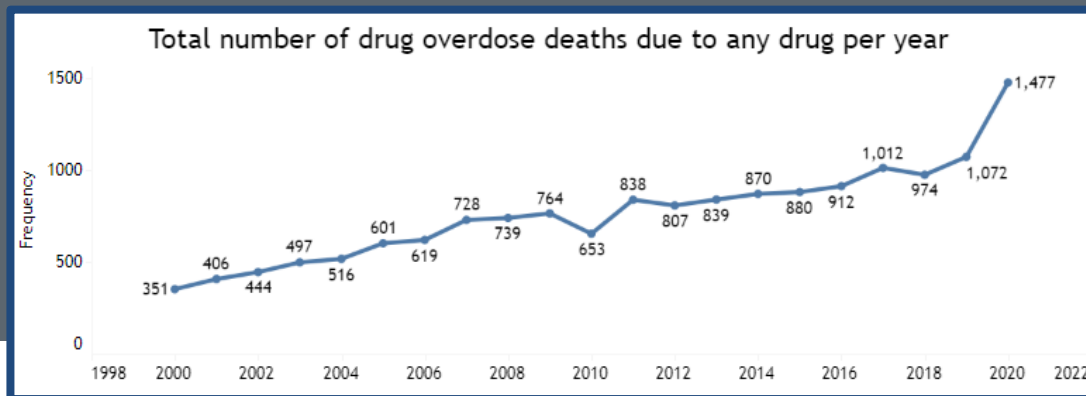


**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Overdose in Colorado



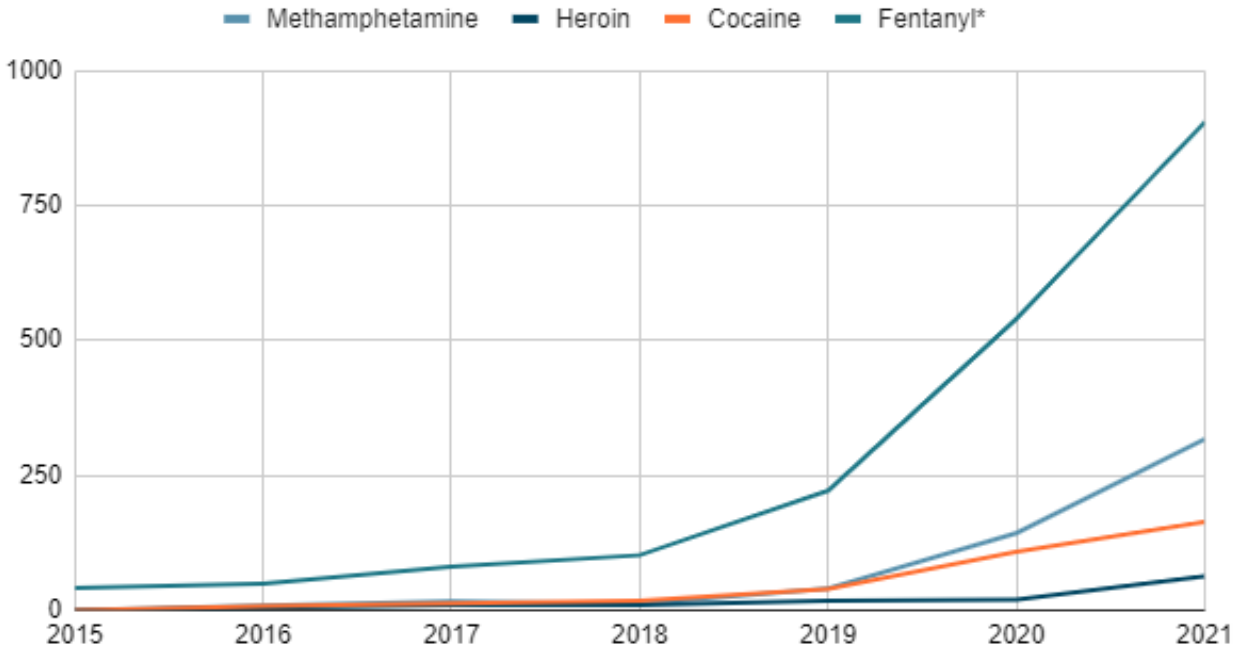
- **1,477** overall overdose deaths in 2020; **1,845** 2021 preliminary data
- **956** overdose deaths involving opioids including heroin; **1,235** 2021 preliminary data
- **525** overdose deaths due to methamphetamine or other psychostimulant; **734** 2021 preliminary data
- **57** overdose deaths due to alcohol poisoning; **59** 2021 preliminary data



|      | Methamphetamine | Heroin | Cocaine | Fentanyl* |  |  |
|------|-----------------|--------|---------|-----------|--|--|
| 2015 | 0               | 0      | 0       | 41        |  |  |
| 2016 | 9               | 5      | 8       | 49        |  |  |
| 2017 | 17              | 10     | 13      | 81        |  |  |
| 2018 | 12              | 10     | 18      | 102       |  |  |
| 2019 | 40              | 18     | 39      | 222       |  |  |
| 2020 | 143             | 20     | 108     | 540       |  |  |
| 2021 | 317             | 63     | 164     | 905       |  |  |

preliminary data

### Overdoses with the Presence of Fentanyl



\*mention of fentanyl alone and with other substances



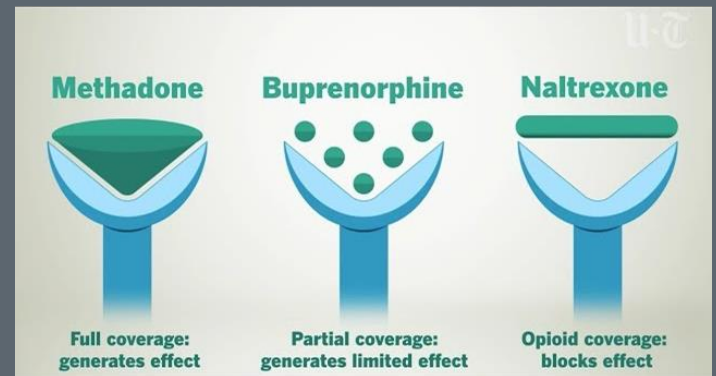
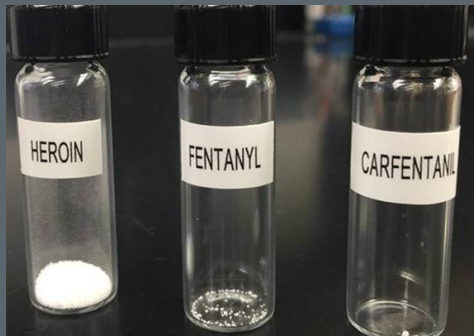
Most common types of prescription opioids are oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, and methadone.



Illicit heroin



Fentanyl: Synthetic opioid about 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.



# Window for Bystander Response



*\*Times are estimates  
intended to illustrate  
magnitude of difference*

Phillip O. Coffin, MD, MIA

# Myth Busting

1. “Fentanyl is in everything”
2. “People are overdosing from fentanyl laced weed, vapes, etc.”
3. “People can overdose from entering a room with fentanyl or touching fentanyl”
4. “Anyone who uses fentanyl will overdose”
5. “Fentanyl is naloxone resistant”
6. Overdose vs. Poisoning narrative

1. Illicit fentanyl is found in pills and powders, cross contamination has been verified by toxicology testing in incidents involving cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and illicit benzodiazepines.
1. There have been no verifiable incidents of fentanyl present in cannabis products or vaporizers in Colorado. Fentanyl’s boiling point is about 871°F, vaporizers do not reach that temperature (typically reach around 428°F at most).
1. Airborne and dermal exposure to fentanyl does not represent a realistic threat to a person’s safety and this myth can impede the provision of aid.
1. Fentanyl has overtaken heroin in the illicit drug supply due to cost, climate change, and other factors. People who use illicit opioids are typically using fentanyl.
1. Fentanyl can cause a quicker physiological overdose response, emphasizing the importance of rendering aid quickly.
1. The illicit drug supply is rapidly changing and unpredictable, individuals who use illicit substances are at risk for overdose. The unnecessary distinction between poisoning and overdose enhances stigma around who deserves compassion and care.



# Relevant Legislation



## Good Samaritan law

A person who in good faith seeks care for themselves or someone experiencing a life threatening emergency will not be charged or prosecuted for a drug- or alcohol-related offense. The immunity described above also extends to the person who suffered the emergency drug or alcohol overdose event.

## Third Party Naloxone, C.R.S. §18-1-712

This law allows for a person other than a health care provider or health care facility who acts in good faith to administer naloxone to another person whom the person believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose. The individual who administers naloxone shall be immune from criminal prosecution for such an act. Amended July 13, 2020 to extend immunity to individuals administering expired naloxone.

# Harm Reduction

“Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.” *National Harm Reduction Coalition*

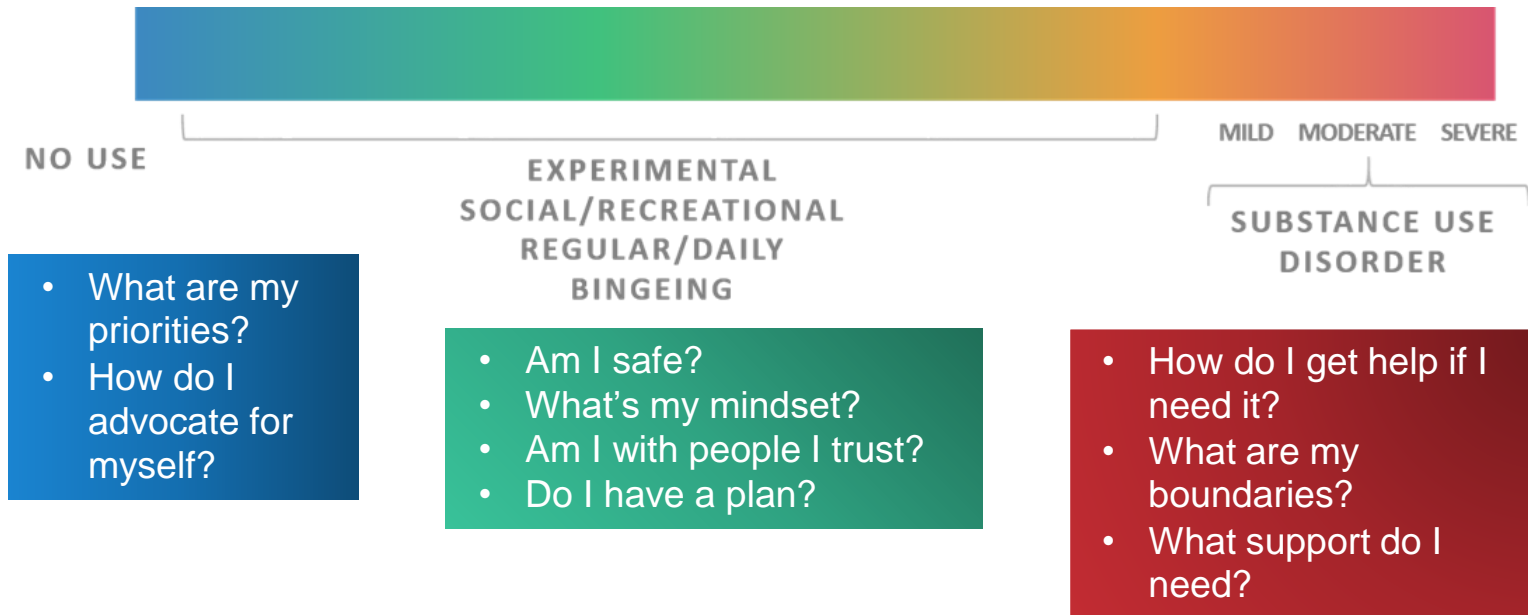
Examples of Harm Reduction strategies related to substance use:

- Naloxone training and distribution
- Drug checking and education (e.g. fentanyl test strips)
- Using sterile supplies and not sharing equipment
- Never using alone, avoiding mixing substances
- Evidence based education for adults & young people
- Focusing on prevention and treatment strategies rather than incarceration (e.g. LEAD)
- Medication for Addiction treatment (e.g. buprenorphine and methadone)



Students for  
Sensible drug policy





Substance use (and mental health disorders) can often create a cycle of isolation that prevents people from seeking services, information, or support. We must cultivate an environment that:

1. Acknowledges substance use as a common part of life rather than a flaw of character
2. Supports harm reduction rather than punitive and isolating consequences
3. Treats the whole person, focuses on communication

# Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund

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# Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund Goals

- Reduce financial burden of purchasing naloxone for key partners by providing naloxone at no cost.
- Promote public health and safety for Coloradans.
- Increase access to naloxone, a key tool in overdose prevention.



# Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund

*Colorado Senate Bill 19-227 : Opiate Antagonist Bulk Purchase Fund*

## Organizations Eligible for the Bulk Fund

- ❖ A unit of Local Government
- ❖ A person that is not a private entity and makes a defibrillator or AED available to aid the general public
  - ❖ A school district board of education of a public school
  - ❖ The State Charter School institute for an institute charter school
    - ❖ A governing board of a nonpublic school
      - ❖ A harm reduction Organization
    - ❖ A law enforcement or first responder agency

SB 15-053 Expands access to naloxone by permitting the Chief Medical Officer of CDPHE to issue Standing Orders for naloxone to be dispensed by pharmacies and harm reduction organizations.

SB 21-122 Aligns section of law so entities defined as units of local government may be issued naloxone standing order thru CDPHE.

# TYPES OF NALOXONE

## NARCAN NASAL SPRAY

(2 X 4 Mg or 2 X 8 Mg; Max per order 216 kits=432 doses)



## PRE-FILLED SYRINGE

(10 X 2 ML; Max per order 10 Units=10 per unit= 100 syringes)



Image: Cardinal Health

## Single dose-VIAL

(without needle)

( 25 X 1 ML; Max per order 10 units = 25/unit=250 vials)



# PROCESS

## STEP .5

Naloxone Standing Order signed by a medical provider with prescribing authority authorizes the agency to possess and distribute naloxone \*.

## STEP 1

Apply for Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund.

Online application process + standing order.

## STEP 2

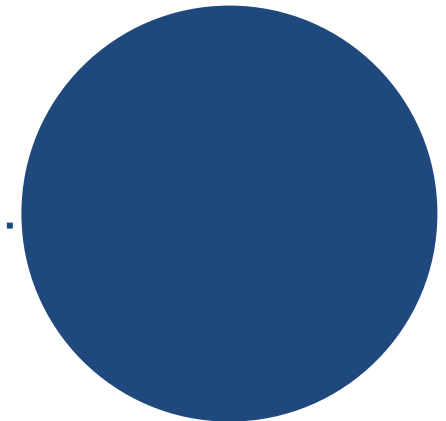
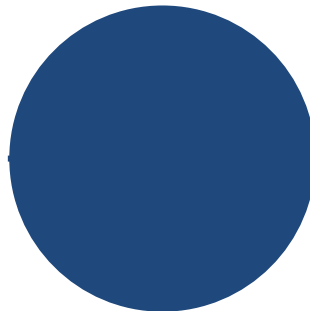
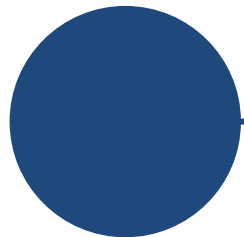
CDPHE confirms eligibility.

Naloxone ordering information sent.

## STEP 3

Order + receive naloxone.

3-5 weeks.



# Overdose Prevention Unit

**Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP): 4 grantees**

Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, improves health outcomes in economically disadvantaged rural areas by reducing the impact of opioids, stimulants, and other substances on individuals and communities

**Harm Reduction Grant Fund: 6 grantees**

The goal and purpose of the Harm Reduction Grant Fund Program is to fund and support local communities as they rethink and expand opportunities to address substance use using a public health approach, rather than through the criminal legal system.

**Overdose Data to Action (OD2A): 11 grantees**

Focus on following strategies: Surveillance/data, prevention: PMDP; state and local integration; linkage to care; provider and health systems support; partnership with public safety and first responders; empowering individuals; innovative prevention strategies; peer to peer learning

**Coroner Mini-Grant Opportunity**

Colorado coroners' offices can apply for mini-grants offered to support coroners as they deal with the opioid crisis in Colorado. Colorado coroners may apply for up to or over \$5000 to support toxicology testing.

**Syringe access in CO:** <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/reducing-infections-from-injection-drug-use>



# Resources

CDPHE Overdose Prevention Unit:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/overdose-prevention>

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

<https://corxconsortium.org/>

Stop the Clock Colorado- Find Naloxone:

<http://stoptheclockcolorado.org/>

National Harm Reduction Coalition:

<https://harmreduction.org/>





# Questions?

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