

The Fentanyl Crisis
March 2022

Dear Parent and Guardians,

We want to alert our parent community of a dangerous drug that is a growing risk to Marin students: the synthetic opioid [fentanyl](#). Last December, the Redwood Bark student paper published an article, [One pill can kill: Addiction, loss and fentanyl. The epidemic unknowingly threatening Marin's most vulnerable teens](#). This came one month after the award-winning piece, [Every parent's worst nightmare: Fentanyl epidemic overtakes teens](#), featured in Archie William's Pitch.

These articles, widely read and distributed, call attention to an urgent topic we all need to address: the presence of fentanyl and even [more powerful synthetic opioids](#) in pills and powders within Marin County. [State sources](#) reveal that [72%](#) of the 5,000 opioid drug overdoses in California in 2020 involved fentanyl.

Teens often gain access to pills that they believe are Xanax, Adderall, or Oxycodone via social media apps like Snapchat. Often, these are [counterfeit pills](#). The DEA has reported that for every 10 illicit pills they test, **four** contain potentially lethal amounts of fentanyl. The combination of easy accessibility and fentanyl in the drug supply have exponentially increased the risks of youth drug experimentation.

What can we do about the rising threat of fentanyl and even more deadly synthetic opioids?

- 1) Discuss the dangers of synthetic opioids like fentanyl with the young people in our lives. This [60 second PSA by the CDC](#) is a great conversation starter, and the locally-produced "[Let's Talk Marin](#)" booklets/webinars can spark more discussions.
- 2) Carry naloxone. [Naloxone](#) (brand name Narcan) is an easy-to-use nasal spray that reverses opioid overdoses. Please check with your pharmacy, and/or contact info@rxsafemarin.org, to obtain Narcan.

We continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students across Marin, with our first shipment of Narcan (5-10 kits per school) being distributed soon to public high school and middle schools in Marin. We thank our youth leaders and partners below for supporting our efforts to address this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

[Marin Healthy Youth Partnerships](#) and [RXSafe Marin](#)



[RxSafe Marin](#) is working with us to provide free naloxone in the schools (with training) and a core substance use curriculum. They also offer presentations on the opioid epidemic in Marin. Contact info@rxsafemarin.org.



FOR MARIN'S LGBTQ+ & HIV COMMUNITIES

[The Spahr Center](#) are Marin's Harm Reduction leaders that provide supplies like naloxone (Narcan), fentanyl test strips, and syringes.



[Marin Prevention Network](#) is a collaboration of community coalitions, organizations, and individuals actively seeking to change norms, policies and laws that affect the availability, promotion, and sales of alcohol and other drugs.



[Let's Talk Marin](#) - Let's Talk is a comprehensive resource for parents and caregivers through distributed booklets, community discussions, and website resources.