

# Opioids: Know the Facts

*(continued)*

## What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is an opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and is the cause of many fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the United States. Fentanyl is sometimes prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain after surgery and for cancer patients. But there is also fentanyl that is made illegally and sold by drug dealers. This illegal fentanyl is often added to other drugs to make them stronger, cheaper and more addictive. Users can't tell when other drugs have been laced with fentanyl, and even a small amount of fentanyl can be deadly.

Key points: