# MS 609.2285 Fentanyl Adulterated Substances

#### A person is guilty of a felony if:

- a) They knowingly adulterate, alter, or substitute a controlled substance/drug with fentanyl, or
- b) They knowingly adulterate, alter, or substitute a package/receptacle containing any controlled substance/drug with fentanyl or another package containing fentanyl.
- c) A and B do not apply to manufacturers, practitioners, pharmacists/pharmacy owners, nurses, and other related professionals

# Opioids and Fentanyl

**Prescription Opioids:** To relieve pain, doctors may prescribe their patients opioids like oxycodone (OxyContin®), morphine, and even fentanyl for severe pain. When prescription opioids are distributed directly by legitimate medical professionals, their purity and strength as labeled can be trusted.

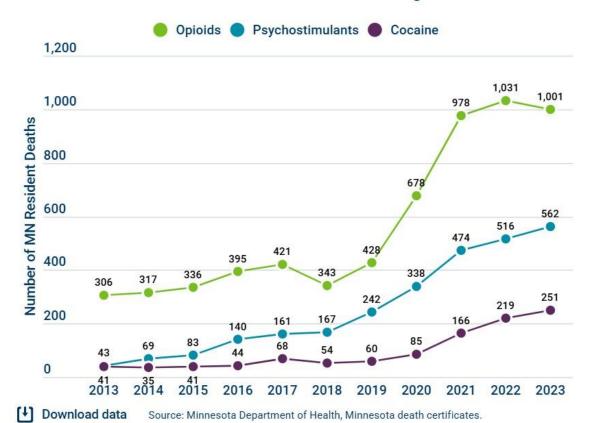
**Illicit Opioids:** Illicit opioids include heroin and any other opioids that are produced outside of a legitimate pharmaceutical laboratory. Opioids that are made illegally are far more dangerous than prescription opioids because people using them cannot verify their purity or strength.

Fentanyl: Synthetic opioids like fentanyl are the leading driver of the overdose epidemic. Because they are extremely powerful, just a tiny amount of fentanyl (or variations of fentanyl called analogues) can be lethal. Fentanyl is often mixed into drugs without the knowledge of the people using them.

#### Drug Overdose Data

### Minnesota Drug Overdose Deaths by Substance Type

In 2022, opioids like fentanyl were involved in the majority of drug overdose deaths in Minnesota. Stimulants such as methamphetamine and cocaine are also involved in over half of the overdose deaths among MN residents.



All data includes MN residents only.

These drug classifications are non-exclusive, as some cases involved multiple substances.

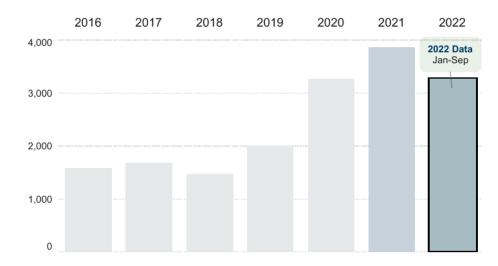
# Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed

#### Nonfatal drug overdose continues to affect the lives of many Minnesotans.

How have trends in nonfatal Opioids (excl. heroin) overdose changed over time?

In 2021, there were 3,868 nonfatal hospital visits for Opioids (excl. heroin) overdose among all Minnesotans.

Among this population, the rate of nonfatal **Opioids (excl. heroin)** overdose was **0.7 per 1,000 residents.** 



What do trends in nonfatal Opioids (excl. heroin) overdose look like right now?

Through September 2022, there have been 3,274 nonfatal hospital visits for Opioids (excl. heroin) overdose among all Minnesotans.

During the same time in 2021, there were 2,888 nonfatal Opioids (excl. heroin) overdoses among this population.

## How are they used?



Minors and young adults experimenting, as well as regular substance users, believe they are buying authentic prescription opioids but are unwittingly purchasing counterfeit pills that contain lethal amounts of drugs, usually fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine, and 50 times more potent than heroin as a painkiller. Twenty-six percent of tablets tested in a DEA laboratory contained a lethal dose of fentanyl". Of the tested pills, 60% contained a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Can you tell the difference?







Any Questions?

