

# Fentanyl

Public Health England and the National Crime Agency have issued alerts about heroin mixed with Fentanyl, after a number of deaths (including locally).

Fentanyl is a synthetic opiate – a strong painkiller usually prescribed for severe chronic pain.

The risk of harm is higher if the wrong dose or strength is used. It is around 100 times stronger than heroin, so more chance of overdose. Small amounts can cause severe or fatal toxicity.

**Heroin users need to be aware that the amount of fentanyl in a £10 bag of heroin need only be 1/50th of the total quantity (about 2 milligrams) to be a lethal dose.** Most common side effects are diarrhea, nausea, constipation, dry mouth, sleepiness, confusion, weakness, increased blood pressure and sweating.

Users should be extra cautious from where / who you buy drugs, and about the drugs you take, how much you take and mixing with other drugs or alcohol.

Dealers will also face harsher penalties as if they are caught with heroin laced with fentanyl, as under UK law adding 'toxic cutting agents to drugs is deemed an aggravating feature'.

**If you experience any unusual side effects, go to the walk in centre, your GP or A&E. Always phone 999 in an emergency or overdose.**

Prenoxad ('Naloxone' / 'Narcan') reverses the effects of opiate overdose and is available through NRP

If you think you are at risk of overdose, **get a pack.**

**If you have any further information please contact Northumbria Police on 101**

This warning was issued by  
Public Health, Northumberland County  
Council on 26th May 2017  
contact: [daat@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:daat@northumberland.gov.uk)

Want information or help about drink or drugs?

Aged 18 or over , call the Northumberland Recovery Partnership - 01670 396303

Aged under 18 - call Sorted 01670 500150  
[sortednorth.co.uk](http://sortednorth.co.uk)