

PRESS RELEASE

FENTANYL IS A SERIAL KILLER: NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS AND PREVENTION DAY RISE UP RALLY AT THE CAPITOL: FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Date & Time: Sunday, August 21, 2022, 2-4pm, Rain or Shine

Where: NC State Capitol Building Grounds, South Side, Morgan Street facing Fayetteville Street

Parking: Free street parking and paid parking in municipal lots

Rules: No signs on sticks/poles, no drones, no firearms/weapons, no climbing trees/walls/statues

Attendees: Fentanyl Victim's Families, Media, Elected Officials, Law Enforcement, Recovery Providers, Educators, Advocates, and the Public

Organized by: Patricia Drewes, Co-Founder,

Forgotten Victims of Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren Counties, NC

Author: Death of America's Future: China's Fentanyl

How to order book: <https://heavenssake.square.site/>

Phone: 252-204-9611 Email: forgottenvictimsVGFWn.c@yahoo.com

FB page: Forgotten Victims of Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren Counties

"Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever faced," states Anne Milgram, Administrator, US Drug Enforcement Agency. "Fentanyl is everywhere. No community is safe from this poison."

FENTANYL IS A SERIAL KILLER: FENTANYL FACTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

1. 8 North Carolinians die each day from fentanyl
2. North Carolina is #6 in the nation in fentanyl deaths
3. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death in NC and the US for 18–35-year-olds. Fentanyl is killing America's youth
4. 76% all NC medicine/drug toxicity deaths involved fentanyl ^{^*}

GOALS

1. EDUCATE the public, SUPPORT victim's families, ASSIST those with substance use disorder, INVESTIGATE & PROSECUTE fentanyl dealers/suppliers, STOP fentanyl from arriving in NC, CHANGE terminology, SAVE LIVES
2. NC should have a statewide investigation protocol for suspicious deaths involving fentanyl since the deaths occur in all 100 counties, yet it does not per *NC Sheriff's Association Legal Counsel*. 38/100 Sheriff's Offices investigated and filed fentanyl involved homicide charges in 2020-21
3. Law Enforcement (LE) should immediately investigate all suspicious drug deaths. Do not wait for toxicology results. State toxicology results take 120-180 days (4-6 months) to be finalized by the NC Office of Chief Medical Examiner. Families & LE do not officially learn what chemical(s) killed their loved one for up to 6 months. By then it is difficult to investigate, & more die.
4. NC District Attorneys should uniformly apply state laws to prosecute fentanyl involved homicides, yet they do not. 4,992 fentanyl involved deaths occurred in 2020-21 yet NC DAs prosecuted only 139 cases; 6 of the 42 NC DAs prosecuted ZERO cases.
5. Fentanyl Awareness Speakers should be permitted in all NC Middle & High Schools to address the dangers of fentanyl.
6. Naloxone (Narcan) should be in every NC school, currently it is not.
7. All NC Law Enforcement should be equipped with Naloxone, currently they are not.

FENTANYL STATISTICS NORTH CAROLINA, source: NC Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Year	# of fentanyl positive deaths[^]	% Increase from previous year
2016	442	1 st year of records
2017	936	112% increase
2018	1,229	31% increase
2019	1,490	21% increase
2020	2,426	63% increase
2021 ^{^*}	3,163	30% increase
2022 ^{^*}	2,414 Jan-July 2022 [*]	7% increase same time period 2021

For detailed case definitions see: <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/poisoning/SummaryTableforPoisoningDefinitions.pdf>

Data source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Death Certificate Data (2020-2021*)

Analysis by: North Carolina Division of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Epidemiology, Surveillance & Informatics Unit

*2021 and 2022 data are provisional and subject to change

[^]There is no individual code for fentanyl involvement on a death certificate; instead, the code T40.4 - an overdose involving another synthetic narcotic is used as a proxy for fentanyl-involvement. Fentanyl gets coded using the 'other' synthetic narcotic code, but there may be other drugs included in this category, however, we know from toxicology data that the majority of deaths receiving this code involved fentanyl