

PRESS RELEASE

FAMILY SUMMIT ON ILLICIT FENTANYL FATALITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA A PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE CONFERENCE: Listen, Learn, Share, Save Lives

Corporate Sponsor: Crossroads Automotive Group -- Dedicated to Saving Lives

13,376 NC FENTANYL FATALITIES IN 9 YEARS, 2013-November 2022

FENTANYL IS NC SERIAL KILLER – These deaths are preventable!

Date & Time: Saturday, March 4, 2023, 11am-4pm

Where: McKimmon Conference Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh NC

Parking: Free parking on-site

Rules: Private event. Pre-registration required. Press welcome with credentials. Bring solutions, not blame. No political statements. No ranting or raving. No Helium balloons.

Attendees: Over 58 NC Fentanyl Victim's Families speak out & available for interviews. Other speakers include NC AG Josh Stein, Elected Officials, State & Federal Law Enforcement, NC Nonprofits for Victims' Families

PRESS CONTACTS & CONFERENCE HOSTS

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Forgotten Victims of North Carolina

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NC FENTANYL FATALITY FACTS

1. 8 North Carolinians die each day from fentanyl, 13,376 died from fentanyl 2013-22 November 2022^{^*}
2. North Carolina is #6 in the nation in fentanyl fatalities, 2021 CDC. The Top 10 list NC does not want to be on!
3. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death in NC and the US for 18–35-year-olds. 2022 CDC
4. 88% of all NC medicine/drug toxicity deaths (9,116) involve fentanyl (8,002)^{^*}, NC 2020-22

GOALS

1. EDUCATE & ACTIVATE the public in all 100 NC counties, SUPPORT victims' families, INVESTIGATE & PROSECUTE fentanyl dealers/suppliers, STOP illicit fentanyl from arriving in NC, CHANGE terminology to POISONING vs OVERDOSE.
2. Develop NC statewide law enforcement training module & investigation protocol for suspicious deaths involving fentanyl since medicine/drug toxicity deaths occur in all 100 counties.
3. Investigate all medication/drug toxicity drug deaths as homicides immediately including on-scene, witnesses & cell phones. Do not wait for State/NC OCME toxicology results that take 4-6 months. By then it is too late to investigate & more have died.
4. Develop training module for NC District Attorneys to uniformly prosecute fentanyl homicides using existing state law GS 14-18.4 Death by Distribution. 8,002 fentanyl involved deaths occurred in 2020-22 yet NC DAs prosecuted less than 100 cases; 5 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.

"People can ingest fentanyl without knowing, leading to accidental poisoning and even death." CDC 2022

"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."

PRESS RELEASE (continued)

FENTANYL FATALITY STATISTICS NORTH CAROLINA

Year	# of fentanyl involved deaths[^]	% Increase from previous year
2013	111	1 ST year of records
2014	212	91% increase
2015	300	42% increase
2016	442	47% increase
2017	936	112% increase
2018	1,229	31% increase
2019	1,490	21% increase
2020	2,426	63% increase
2021	3,168	30% increase
2022 ^{^*}	3,062 Jan-Nov 2022 [*]	4% increase same time period 2021
TOTAL	13,376	NC FENTANYL INVOLVED FATALITIES

NC Office of Chief

(OCME) Toxicology 1/20/2023

Medical Examiner

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 (2020-2022*)

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

*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

Repeat: FAMILY SUMMIT ON ILLICIT FENTANYL FATALITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA A PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE CONFERENCE: Listen, Learn, Share, Save Lives

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