

PRESS RELEASE

Fentvic Meetup #14 HICKORY, Catawba County & Adjacent NC Counties

When: Saturday, February 21, 2025, 2:00-4:00 pm

Where: Grace Church Downtown Campus, 26 2nd Street NW, Hickory 28601

Who: Fentanyl Victim Families, press, law enforcement, elected officials, public health

CONTACTS

Barb Walsh, Executive Director, 919-614-3830, barb@fentvic.org, website: fentvic.org

Fentanyl Victims Network of NC (fentvic.org), 501(c)(3) EIN 88-3921380

Local Coordinator: Dawn Potter Balthis, Misty's Mom. 828-302-4263, gpp1114@yahoo.com

PURPOSE

1. NC Fentanyl Victim Families educational advocacy and networking event
2. Spark public safety conversations within communities about the dangers of illicit fentanyl, particularly counterfeit pressed pills (Adderall, Xanax, Percocet), and access to life-saving naloxone in schools and the community

FACTS

- 17,603 NC residents killed by fentanyl in 10 years, 2013- March 2024 2023 (NC OCME May 2023)
- 7 out of 10 'street' pressed copy-cat pills contain lethal fentanyl additives (DEA 2023)
- 8 NC residents die each day (NC OCME)
- This means 8 more NC families implode each day.
- NC is #4 in nation in fentanyl fatalities (CDC 2023) yet #10 in population.
- Fentanyl is leading cause of death in NC for 18–25-year-olds (CDC 2022)
- 869 fentanyl fatalities combined occurred 2013-2023 in the Counties of Catawba(250), Alexander(36), Burke(170), Caldwell(130), Iredell(182) and Lincoln(101) (source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Death Certificate Data)
- Links to fentanyl fatality data. Go to www.fentvic.org website, select **RESOURCES** tab, select **NC COUNTY REPORTS**, select **COUNTY NAME** you are interested in.
 - **CATAWBA:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Catawba_County.pdf
 - **ALEXANDER:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Alexander_County.pdf
 - **BURKE:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Burke_County.pdf
 - **CALDWELL:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Caldwell_County.pdf
 - **IREDELL:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Iredell_County.pdf
 - **LINCOLN:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Lincoln_County.pdf

ABOUT: Fentvic.org is a charitable nonprofit located in Wake County NC. Fentvic.org is an action-oriented grassroots nonprofit that promotes Public Safety, Education, Justice, Advocacy, and Support of NC fentanyl victim families in all 100 NC Counties.

RULES: Non-partisan public event. Treat victim families with dignity and respect. Avoid trigger word 'overdose.' Prohibited: political statements/ranting, helium balloons, firearms, and alcohol. No food service, only hugs.