

# Benefits of Fentanyl Test Strips

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## FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl unless you test your drugs with fentanyl test strips.<sup>1</sup> Two counterfeit pills from the same source can contain different amounts of fentanyl.

- Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are an easy to use and low-cost method for detecting fentanyl.<sup>2</sup>
- FTS allow a person to test their batch for traces of fentanyl and its analogs.
- The amount of fentanyl contained in each counterfeit pill varies from pill to pill, even if the pills were provided by the same source.<sup>3</sup> Because of this, it is important to test every pill before you take it.
- Fentanyl test strips contain antibodies that are specifically reactive with fentanyl, and when a bit of substance is mixed in water and applied to the test strip, the strip will react. It is the same mechanism as a COVID-19 or pregnancy test.<sup>4</sup>

## HOW ACCURATE ARE FENTANYL TEST STRIPS (FTS)?

- FTS are highly accurate when used properly. Most FTS on the market are 96-100 percent accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.<sup>5</sup>
- Overdose Lifeline distributes fentanyl test strips manufactured by WiseBatch, which are 98-99% accurate in detecting fentanyl and at least 24 different fentanyl analogs.<sup>4</sup>
- It is important to note that a negative test result may still contain a fentanyl analog or fentanyl at a lower concentration than detectable by the test strip.<sup>5</sup>
- FTS do not measure how much fentanyl is contained in a drug sample nor does it measure the potency of the supply, it simply tests for presence. <sup>5,6</sup>

## STUDIES DEMONSTRATING THE BENEFITS OF FTS

- In a study with people who inject drugs, those who used fentanyl test strips and received a positive test result after testing their supply were 5 times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior.<sup>7</sup>
- Receiving a positive FTS result is significantly associated with positive changes in overdose prevention behaviors such as<sup>8,9</sup>:
  - Using less of a batch that is shown to have fentanyl in it, or not using that batch at all
  - Changing the way they are consuming the drug
  - Using in the presence of others
  - Giving FTS to others they suspect may have a similar batch
  - Having naloxone on hand

## ACCESSING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS IN INDIANA

To learn where you can access fentanyl test strips for free in Indiana and for detailed instructions on how to use them, please visit <https://www.overdoselifeline.org/fentanyl-test-strips/>.

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