



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Stephanie Muth

DATE: September 1, 2023

TO: DFPS Contracted Providers

FROM: Trina K. Ita, MA
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SUBJECT: One Pill Kills Fentanyl Awareness Campaign

Background

In May of this year the department sent out a communication regarding Governor Abbott's launching of the ["One Pill Kills" Statewide campaign](#) to combat the growing national fentanyl crisis. In support of this awareness campaign and call to action, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) distributed information on resources available to DFPS stakeholders and contractors to aid in efforts to prevent unnecessary loss of life as a result fentanyl exposure. This communication is a reminder of the resources available to you. The department encourages you to rereview the information below and attached to address the opioid crisis by using the resources and tool the department has made available to you when and where appropriate.

Data

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and is a substance contributing to the leading cause death of Americans between ages 18-45. Last year there were more than 2000 lives in Texas lost to fentanyl. Texas has experienced a 500% increase in fentanyl-related deaths since 2019 (according to [provisional data](#) from the Texas Department of State Health Services). Under Operation Lone Star, Texas law enforcement alone has seized over 380 million lethal doses of fentanyl since 2021- enough to kill every man, woman and child in America. These alarming statistics warrant an intentional response to support Texas communities in preventing fentanyl related tragedies.

Resources

There are a variety of resources to aid in combating the opioid and fentanyl crisis in Texas. The first linked website provides information and educational vignettes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to help you and your partners understand the impact of opioids and fentanyl. The second linked website takes you to the website that provides access to Narcan (also known as naloxone); an overdose reversal medication that is used to reverse the affects of fentanyl and other opioids. The website allows individuals or entities to request Narcan and also offers live Zoom training sessions on how to administer this medication. The last link takes you to more resources offered by the Texas

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Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) initiative with additional resource information on fentanyl and opioid use/misuse:

[DFPS - One Pill Kills](#)

[MoreNarcanPlease](#)

[The Texas Opioid Response](#)

Conclusion

The Department encourages you to take advantage of these resources to both heighten your awareness of the impact of these substances as well as arm yourself with preventive tools that may help you save lives.

Enc.: Attachment A – Fentanyl the Invisible Killer
Attachment B – Fentanyl Awareness Information