The Fentanyl Epidemic in Schools
Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize and appreciate the scope of the fentanyl epidemic as a newer trend in the larger scope of the opiate epidemic.
2. Encourage discussions, workshops and education about Fentanyl use, overdoses and treatment in schools.
3. Learn to recognize the factors such as mental health issues, social inequity, domestic stressors, and involve families and communities in making available resources and help to combat these issues.
4. Recognize the role of social media and the illegal drug market online accessible to children and adolescents.
5. Discuss the role of Narcan and its use and storage in schools.
Who We Are

Chris Didlier
Zach’s Father Advocate

Laura Didlier
Zach’s Mother Advocate

Sundeep Dosanjh
Panelist
Chief of Communications & Community Engagement,
Rocklin USD

Diana Meza
Panelist
Communications Director, Riverside USD

Gina Nielsen
Moderator
Chief Communications Officer, Dry Creek JESD
Who is Zach?
What Happened to Zachary?

• Zach bought a Percocet via social media
• But the pill was a counterfeit made of fentanyl; aka: ‘fentapill’
• Zach died shortly after in his room. He never had a chance.

TOXICOLOGY RESULTS: Fentanyl intoxication. (No Percocet)

• Not a party death. Not an overdose. Not an addiction casualty
The New Category of Victim

Healthy choices lead to a healthy life path.

Unhealthy choices can lead down a dangerous path

Initial Experimental User

“One Pill Can Kill”
(Fastest Growing Victim Group)

Younger
Inexperienced
Naïve/Trustiing
Low Body Tolerance

Occasional Recreational User

Opportunities for Cessation

Moderation
Age out of risky behavior
Intervention

Habitual User

Dependent User

Accidental Overdose

Opportunities for Cessation

Age out of risky behavior
Intervention
Growth in U.S. Fentanyl Involved Deaths by Age

2015 vs 2020

WHY??

>2x greater

6x (Avg)

13< 14-15 16-17 18-19 19-20 21-23 24-25 26-27 28-29 30> ALL

Derived from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 2018-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-2020.html on Dec 26, 2023 9:18:17 AM. NCHS has different criteria for the collection of death records for analysis of all ages mortality data. Drug overdose deaths are identified using underlying cause of death codes from the 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) 291-293 (unintentional), 292-294 (suicide), and Y31-44 (undetermined). Drug overdose deaths involving specific drug categories are identified by specific multiple cause of death codes. Drug categories presented include: heroin (T40.3), natural opioid analgesics, including morphine and codeine, and semi-synthetic opioids, including drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydrocodone and oxymorphone (T40.3), methadone, a synthetic opioid (T40.3), synthetic opioid analgesics other than methadone, including drugs such as fentanyl and tramadol (T40.4), cocaine (T40.5), benzodiazepine (T40.6), and psychotherapeutics with abuse potential, which includes methadone/methadone (T40.6). Rates are per 100,000, age-adjusted for all ages. "M. Opioids" uses T40.1-T40.3.

"Fentanyl Involved" uses T40.4 and "Fentanyl % of all drug deaths" is %COD T40.4/Drug overdose deaths. "Fentanyl only" uses (Any T40.4) minus (Any T40.4 AND OR T40.2 AND OR T40.3, AND OR T40.5, AND OR T40.6 AND OR T40.4). Multiple drugs may be involved in one drug death. State rankings are based on death rates and growth in rates for states where data exist.
2 INFLUENCERS:

1. **Legit Prescriptions** give appearance of a “safe” product
   - Many teens prescribed to them
   - Siblings, family and friends too
   - Pills are more normalized

2. **Cellphones** give appearance of a “trusted” solution
   - Many teens have them
   - Become reliable & trusted resource
   - Very popular

Potential for deception and unperceived Danger
Fentanyl Changes Everything
Fentanyl in Vapes

**Fentanyl Used in Vape Pens**

San Diego, CA, early 2022: One student treated for fentanyl exposure via vaping.

Mifflin Co. High School, PA in late Feb 2022: 3 vape pens found containing fentanyl or heroin. 1 Nurse & 2 SROs treated for symptoms of exposure (Narcan). 17 y.o. student arrested.

Student medical emergency--Investigation ongoing.
Fentanyl killed this many people in 2022
What was Rocklin Unified’s Response?
Fentanyl Awareness Campaign

- Spread awareness across RUSD stakeholders about the dangers of fentanyl use within the region.
  - Workshops.
  - Media.
  - Partner with outside agencies.
  - Narcan/Naloxone is in multiple AED Boxes across all campuses and school district buildings.
    - Staff training ongoing.
Rocklin Unified – Partnerships

- Venue to launch 1 Pill Can Kill Placer Awareness Campaign

- Parent Information Nights & Student Assemblies

- Logan Webb, San Francisco Giants Pitcher & Rocklin High School Graduate
What happened at Riverside Unified?
Fentanyl Incident & Campaign

- **Overdose at one of our high schools** - took a counterfeit oxycodone tablet containing fentanyl
- **Importance of Partnership** with local law enforcement and emergency response teams
- **Partnership with the County** and the Faces of Fentanyl Campaign launch in Oct. 2022
  - [Social Media Toolkit](#) – English and Spanish
  - [Faces of Fentanyl Website](#)
  - [Fentanyl deaths dashboard](#)
- Developed a [Communications Plan](#) for school site leaders and departments to use.
- Narcan is now available at our school sites and training is currently taking place
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Questions & Comments