## What The Fentanyl! Making sense of a deadly epidemic

Aimee Moulin MD, FACEP, Professor Emergency Medicine Chief Division Addiction Medicine UC Davis Medical Center

#### Fentanyl comes to California

Figure 3. Overdose-Associated Cardiac Arrests (OCAs) per 100 000 Activations and Percentage Increases by Census Division, 2020

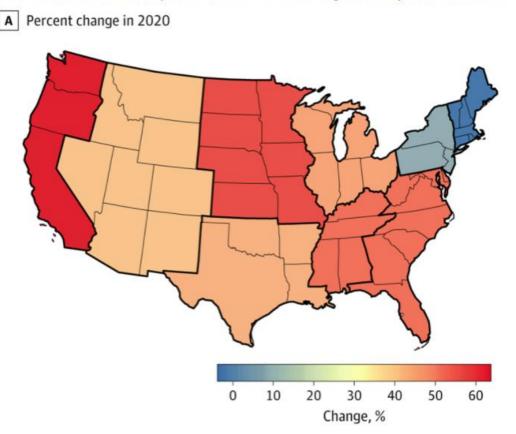
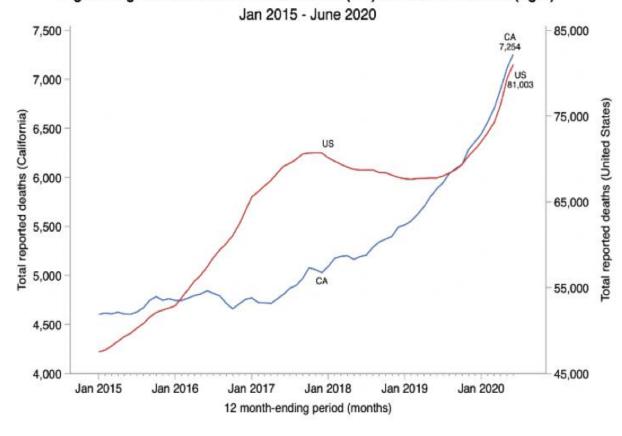


Fig 1. Drug Overdose Deaths in California (left) & the United States (right)



Can you name somebody who...?



### Can you name somebody who...?

Yes, you can. We all can.





# But seriously, UFTFentanyl...?

#### What's the deal with Fentanyl?

- Synthetic opioid = lab designed → stronger, more effective
- Higher receptor affinity & potency → higher "high" (more addictive) ...and higher risk of OD
- Does not reliably show up on routine urine toxicology screen (there are specific fentanyl tests – not available in every lab)
- Can build up in fat stores over time → longer time to withdrawal

#### What's the deal with Fentanyl?

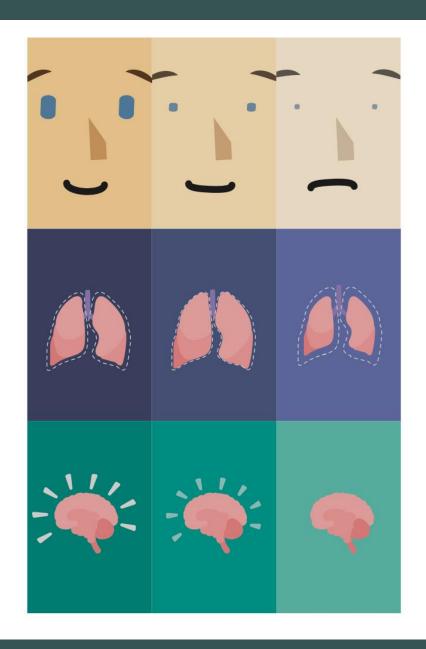
- Fentanyl gets mixed with other drugs –
  e.g. heroin, methamphetamine,
  cocaine
- DEA analysis of counterfeit pills showed 0.02 to 5.1mg of fentanyl/tablet (>2x lethal dose!)



#### What's the deal with Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is rapidly absorbed by smoking
- Poorly absorbed by skin absorption is sloow (peaks at 72hours)





### What does an overdose look like?

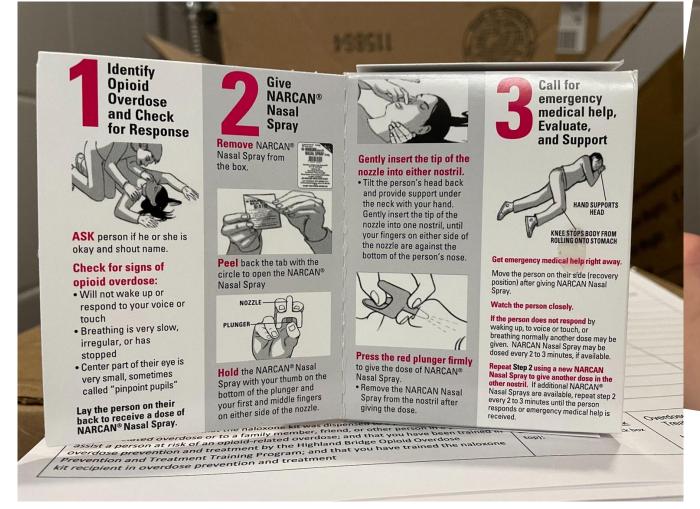
Learn the signs of a opioid overdose and educate those around you.

#### Three strong signs of overdose are:

- -tiny, pinpoint pupils
- -slow and shallow breathing
- -unconsciousness and/or unresponsiveness

#### Harm Reduction:

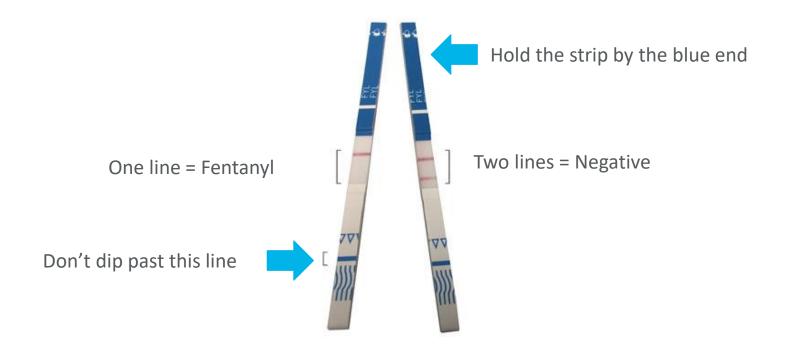
#### Naloxone





#### Harm Reduction:

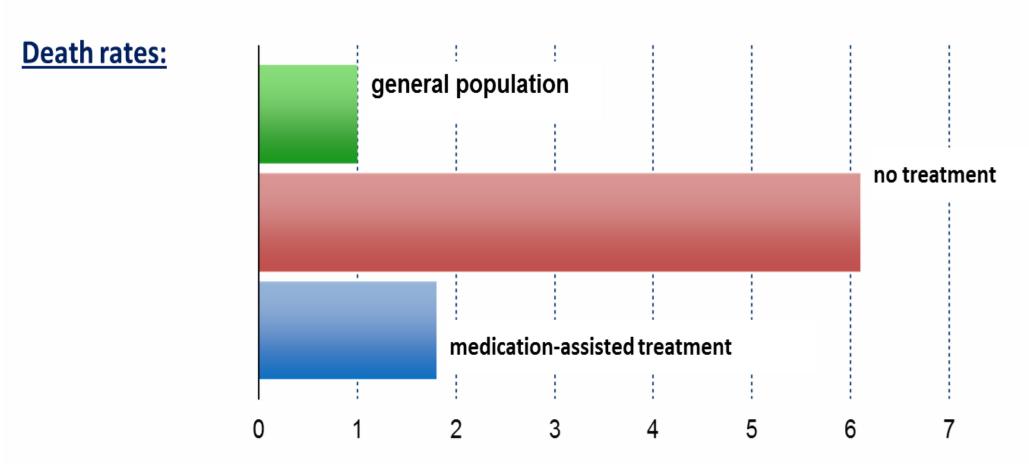
#### Fentanyl Test Strips



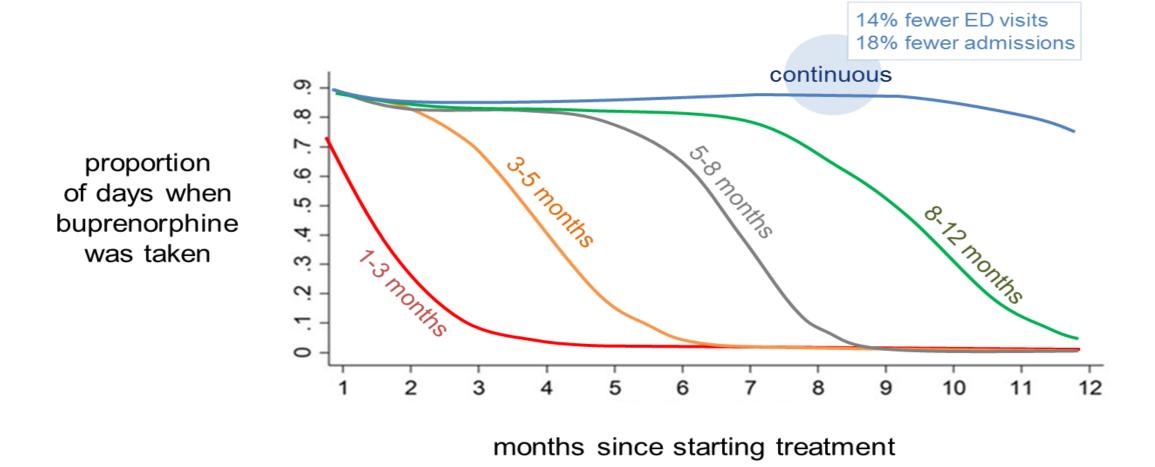
- Help identify unintentional fentanyl in drugs
- Caution: High concentrations of meth can cause <u>false positive</u>

## Good News: MAT Works

#### **Treatment Saves Lives**



#### **How Long do Patients Need MAT?**



10.3% of people aged 12 or older who need treatment for substance use received any substance use treatment in the past year

## All people deserve rapid access to addiction treatment

Thank you!!

akmoulin@ucdavis.edu