



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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Lisa Warhuus, PhD  
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH  
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
TTY Dial 711  
marinhhs.org/public-health

**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: Local Increase in Fentanyl Overdose Deaths**

**To: Clinicians and those who serve people who use substances in Marin County**

**Current Situation:**

Marin County is experiencing a cluster of suspected fentanyl overdose deaths. In five overdose deaths since February 14, preliminary toxicology suggests the victims ingested fentanyl in combination with methamphetamine. There are corresponding increases in these substances in Marin County wastewater and in 911 calls for non-fatal overdose events. People using substances may be at higher than usual risk for fatal overdose in Marin County.

**Background:**

Overdose is the leading cause of death in Marin County for residents aged 55 and younger. Fentanyl, a high potency synthetic opioid, is the most common substance involved in local overdose deaths. Spikes in fentanyl-related deaths may be due to increased concentration and intentional use of fentanyl or increased contamination of fentanyl in other substances.

**Providers are asked to share the following messages with people who use drugs:**

- Carry Narcan. You may need to use multiple doses. Get free Narcan here: [odfreemarin.org/narcan/](https://odfreemarin.org/narcan/).
- Test your drugs before using. Fentanyl test strips are available through [Ritter Center](#).
- Start low and go slow.
- Do not use drugs alone. If no one will be close by while you are using, call [Never Use Alone](#) at 1-800-484-3731
- For treatment options, call the Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Access Line (24/7) at 1-888-818-1115 or [visit here](#)

**Other actions requested of providers:**

- Recognize suspected opioid overdose and take prompt action. Reversing high-potency opioid overdoses may require repeated administrations of naloxone.
- To reach those using substances, OD Free Marin and Marin Public Health have developed [harm reduction](#) and [overdose risk alert](#) flyers to be printed and posted where appropriate.

- Refer patients with opioid use disorder to treatment, or obtain the capacity to provide [Medication Assisted Therapy \(MAT\)](#) in your practice.

If your organization distributes Narcan or fentanyl test strips and needs supplies, email [info@odfreemarin.org](mailto:info@odfreemarin.org) .

Marin County Public Health is monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates.