

The Northwest Hills
Prevention Connection's



NORTHWEST HILLS
**PREVENTION
CONNECTION**

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Highlights

FREQUENTLY ASKED:
Q&A ABOUT FENTANYL

CT PSA REGARDING ILLEGAL,
UNSAFE CANNABIS EDIBLES

Frequently asked: Q&A about Fentanyl

It is crucial to dispel any myths surrounding fentanyl to foster understanding and awareness. Misinformation surrounding fentanyl can cause unnecessary fear, lead to stigmatization of people who use drugs, and can prevent people from seeking treatment and essential harm reduction services. Additionally, it may prevent someone experiencing an overdose from getting life-saving help.

Let's address some of the most common myths:

FENTANYL MYTHS: SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues (some stronger than fentanyl, some weaker) are not "naloxone resistant." They are opioids and will respond to naloxone if someone is overdosing.

You cannot overdose simply by touching fentanyl. It must be introduced into the bloodstream or a mucus membrane in order for someone to feel the effects. While there are fentanyl patches that can be placed on the skin for pain management, this is not the formulation that's cut into other substances.

**NATIONAL
HARM REDUCTION
COALITION**

A wide-spread false belief about fentanyl is that you can overdose or get high from touching fentanyl or breathing in secondhand smoke. This is not true.

This myth, spread by a frenzy of first responder stories and stigmatizing headlines, poses actual, life-threatening danger to people who use drugs; if someone believes touching fentanyl will harm them, then that person will not respond to an overdose out of fear for their own safety.

It is critical people understand that touching fentanyl, being in a room with fentanyl, accidentally inhaling fentanyl, or touching someone who touched fentanyl will not harm them.

"Fentanyl Facts." StreetWorks Outreach Collaborative | Minneapolis St. Paul, 22 Nov. 2023, www.streetworksmn.org/fentanyl-facts/. Accessed 20 Mar. 2024.

Frequently asked: Q&A about Fentanyl



Marijuana Resource Center

Clearing the Haze: Marijuana and Fentanyl



Nizam Ergil/Getty Images

You might have heard some worrying stories or rumors saying that marijuana may be laced with fentanyl, a powerful opioid linked to many overdose cases. But it's important to look closely at these claims and figure out if they're true.

The short answer is that they are false — **there is no solid evidence that marijuana is being laced with fentanyl**. Here are some of the reasons why:

Burning destroys fentanyl

Fentanyl is destroyed when it is burned including when it is in a joint, blunt or other means of smoking marijuana. This means that even if it is mixed with marijuana flower, it will have no effect on a person who is smoking it.

Vape pen temperatures are too low

What about vape pens? Most commonly available vape pens don't reach temperatures over 450 degrees Fahrenheit. This is because higher temperatures will destroy the substances they are intended to be used with including marijuana. Vape pens would have to reach temperatures closer to 900 degrees Fahrenheit to vaporize fentanyl. Even if the marijuana is contaminated or mixed with fentanyl, the fentanyl would be destroyed before it's absorbed.

Frequently asked: Q&A about Fentanyl



Marijuana Resource Center

Clearing the Haze: Marijuana and Fentanyl

Liver breaks down edibles

Could fentanyl impact a person if it's baked into a brownie or put in some other kind of edible? The answer is that the risk is very low because fentanyl is broken down by the liver, with little chance of reaching the brain.

No profits to be made

According to Leafly[1], a site devoted to the sale of marijuana products, it doesn't make sense to add fentanyl to marijuana from a cost standpoint. They offer this example: "...a weed dealer would have to spend \$40 on a fentanyl patch, successfully extract the drug from the patch, and then "lace" a \$30 gram of their best weed to live up to these fantasies. In a best-case economic scenario, the dealer is losing \$10 on every sale."

Police and media mistakes

Some police and media outlets have claimed fentanyl-laced marijuana, but lab tests show these claims were errors. Unfortunately, the corrections don't make headlines like the initial claims.

No DEA alerts

The government has drug testing and monitoring systems in place to track the makeup of illegal substances.



Nizam Ergil/Getty Images

Any significant spike in cases involving this combination would likely be detected and reported immediately. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has recently issued alerts[2] about fentanyl-laced fake pills like Percocet and Vicodin for pain relief, Adderall to treat ADHD and Xanax to address anxiety. They have also warned about fentanyl laced with Xylazine which is used to sedate animals. They have not issued alerts about marijuana.

Further, there are about 55 million[3] people in the U.S. who use marijuana. We would see overdose rates far higher than they are today if fentanyl was in the marijuana supply. It's more important than ever to think about where we get our information. Sometimes, news stories want to grab our attention by making things sound scarier than they really are. When it comes to the idea of marijuana mixed with fentanyl, trust information from reliable sources, like scientists and health experts. By looking at the facts, we can make better decisions about our health and not get caught up in unnecessary worry.

THE FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to **50x** stronger than heroin and **100x** stronger than morphine.

Signs of overdose

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

What to do if you think someone is overdosing

It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, treat it like an overdose—you could save a life.

- 1** Call 911 Immediately.*
- 2** Administer [naloxone](#), if available.**
- 3** Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
- 4** Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
- 5** Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.



GOOD SAMARITAN LAW



In CT anyone who calls 911 or helps someone who is overdosing is protected from arrest for possession of drug/paraphernalia.

[READ MORE](#)

LOCAL RESOURCES



LITCHFIELD COUNTY OPIATE TASK FORCE

The Task Force is here to help you find the resources you or your loved one needs to support their substance use disorder treatment and journey through recovery.

PLEASE COME SEE US AT ANY OF OUR LITCHFIELD COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE ROVER SITES. A LIST OF OUR ROVER SITES CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://WWW.LCOTF.ORG/HARM-REDUCTION/](https://www.lcotf.org/harm-reduction/)

FOR RESOURCES & SUPPORT
PLEASE CALL US 1(860)256-811



CT PSA

Regarding Illegal, Unsafe Cannabis Edibles



The Office of the Attorney General
William Tong

Attorney General Tong, Consumer Protection Commissioner Cafferelli Announce Public Service Announcement Regarding Illegal, Unsafe Cannabis Edibles

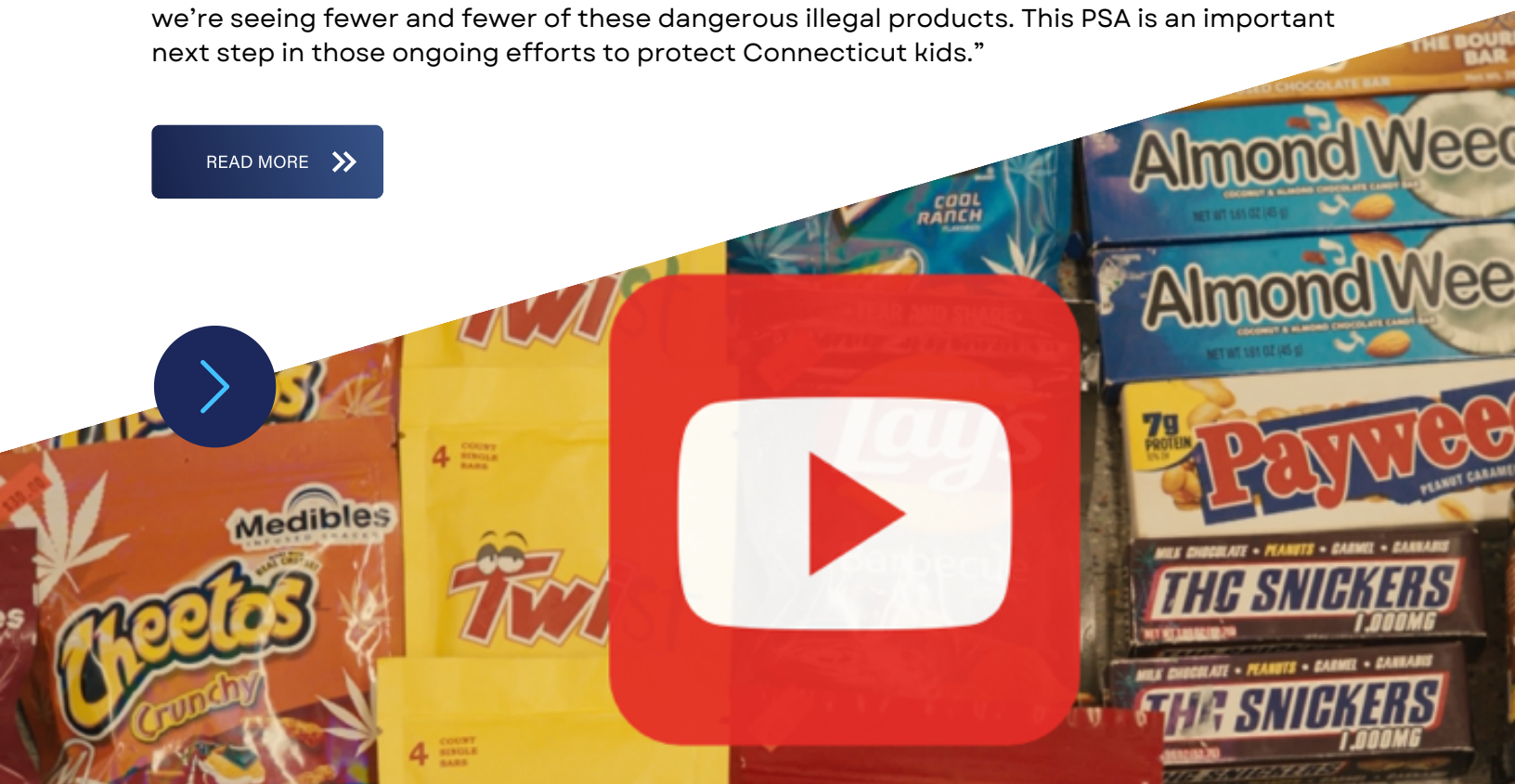
03/18/2024

(Hartford, CT) – Attorney General William Tong and Consumer Protection Commissioner Bryan Cafferelli today announced the launch of a public service announcement regarding illegal, unsafe cannabis edibles made to look like common kid-friendly snacks.

The public service announcement was produced in partnership with the Connecticut Broadcasters Association and will air on television and radio over the next 13 weeks.

“We’re still seeing highly potent illegal cannabis products that look like common kid snacks. These edibles are untested and unsafe, and can land kids in the hospital. If you see these products, keep them away from children and report them at ct.gov/reportillegalcannabis,” said Attorney General Tong. “After months of sustained enforcement and public education, we’re seeing fewer and fewer of these dangerous illegal products. This PSA is an important next step in those ongoing efforts to protect Connecticut kids.”

READ MORE >>





NORTHWEST HILLS
**PREVENTION
CONNECTION**



The Northwest Hills Prevention Connection (NHPC) is dedicated to helping prevent youth substance use in Northwestern Connecticut, specifically in the towns of Barkhamsted, Norfolk, New Hartford, Colebrook, and Winchester. Through a unique network of community members, we provide area families with an understanding of substance use disorder and the benefits of not using. This knowledge provides empowerment, helping community members to make the best choices for themselves.

CORE STRATEGIES OF NHPC

NHPC follows an evidenced-based, public health model known as the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The five steps and two guiding principles of the SPF offer coalitions a comprehensive process for addressing the substance misuse and related behavioral health problems facing their communities



HOW DO WE PREVENT UNDERAGE USE OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES?

♥ MINIMIZE ACCESS

♥ EDUCATE

♥ GROW COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Get Involved

Adults

Our volunteer community coalition meets monthly to discuss ways of preventing drug use among youth and families. We plan events, recruit for our coalition, make decisions on educational materials, and educate ourselves and the community about various substances and their consequences.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Share our information online
- Attend monthly meetings or NHPC events
- Volunteer at events or outreach table

Youth

Middle School, High School & College Students

The NHPC Council is an alliance of individuals, where all members agree to work together to allow our youth to be strong, safe, and substance free.

Get involved with the NHPC to:

- Connect with community members
- Challenge yourself
- Improve your community
- Make a difference
- Learn new skills
- Enhance your college application

MEETINGS

NHPC meetings occur monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 8:30 am - 9:30 am via Zoom.

All meetings are open to the public.

E-mail cohm@nwcty.org to be added to our distribution list!

Become a coalition member today!

SCAN ME!



For more information about NHPC

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NORTHWEST HILLS
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 www.facebook.com/NHPCConnection

Upcoming Newsletters

JUNE 2024

