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Fentanyl

The opioid more deadly than Heroin

Yukon (February 11, 2019) – Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was made and approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. It is prescribed in the form of lozenges and transdermal patches. Fentanyl is becoming responsible for more and more overdoses in the United States.

However, most recent cases of fentanyl related overdose are linked to illegally made fentanyl. Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl is referred to as illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF). IMF is often mixed with heroin and/or cocaine and can also be pressed into counterfeit pills to resemble a prescription opioid, unknown to the user's knowledge. This is particularly dangerous because many users are unaware of what they are purchasing and just a dose the size of a few grains of salt can be fatal to human life. According to the CDC, overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, which includes fentanyl, increased almost 47% from 2016 to 2017.

It is a growing concern for our country and state. Specifically in Grady County, Fentanyl reached the list of the most common substances in the counties overdose deaths. (Source: Oklahoma State Health Department-Injury Prevention Service) It is important to know the warning signs of an overdose and have a plan in place. For more information on the opioid epidemic in Oklahoma and how to prevent an opioid overdose, visit OKimready.org.

Red Rock's Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success (SPF-PFS) mission is to promote the appropriate use of prescription drugs by educating the community on the dangers of the non-medical use of prescription drugs and encouraging safe use, safe storage and safe disposal of prescription drugs in Grady County."

Red Rock Partnership for Success grant is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. For more information on Red Rock Partnership for Success Grant please contact Jenna Cansler at 405-422-8874 or visit www.redrockrpc.com.