



ONE PILL CAN KILL

For information on treatment or access to Naloxone & Fentanyl test strips:

www.DareNC.gov/Fentanyl

Can you tell which pill has the deadly dose of fentanyl?



FENTANYL is the Leading Cause of Death in the US.

For the first time in our nation's history, over 100,000 people have died of drug overdose in a single year. Fentanyl poisoning is now the leading cause of death for adults aged 18-45 in the United States, surpassing suicide, gun violence and car accidents. Fentanyl deaths in America across all age groups doubled from 32,745 fatalities to 62,178 fatalities in the two-year period between April 2019 and April 2021. Who knows what the numbers will look like this year? What is the "magic number" that will spur action? Remember that these faces are not just a number, they are our children, mothers, fathers and friends. We must act now.



FENTANYL KILLS

NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY™ AUGUST 21

National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day™ is established in remembrance of those lost to illicit fentanyl poisoning and to acknowledge the devastation this drug has brought to hundreds of thousands of affected family members and friends.

SOMEONE DIES FROM FENTANYL POISONING EVERY 9 MINUTES

Hundreds of people die daily in the United States from illicit fentanyl poisoning. Fentanyl-related deaths occur approximately every nine minutes. Tracking of deaths and poisonings has been insufficient and we believe the available data falls short of the actuality of the current crisis. States like Colorado have experienced a 1008% increase in a six-year time span since 2015. We need to approach this fentanyl emergency different than drugs of the past. As the drug landscape changes, we must change with it. We need to be stronger in our efforts to attack the devastation that is impacting Americans.

THINK AGAIN

If you think fentanyl can't affect your family, think again. No one is immune. Unsuspecting people die every day from fentanyl poisoning. There are no socioeconomic boundaries from the attack of illicit fentanyl. The news is filled with stories of youth dying in schools after taking a counterfeit pill manufactured with fentanyl. The death rate of senior fentanyl poisoning is even rising. Many affected families didn't even know what fentanyl was when it devastated their family. We urge you to learn the facts on illicit fentanyl before it's too late.

LEARN THE FACTS:

<http://darenc.gov/Fentanyl>

<https://facingfentanylnow.org/fentanyl-facts/>

SAVING LIVES TASK FORCE

The Initiative is a quarterly newsletter presented by the Saving Lives Task Force, the goal of this publication is to educate, inform and engage residents of Dare County.

- Our Task Force is a team of professionals and community members working toward the prevention of substance use disorders and the availability of effective treatment for all Dare county citizens in need of help.
- **Join us for our In-Person Meetings** on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm.
- **For More Information** please contact Roxana Ballinger, Saving Lives Task Force Co-Chair, at 252.475.5619 or roxana.ballinger@darenc.com.

savinglivesobx.com

facebook.com/savinglivesobx



If you are using, there is a strong possibility

FENTANYL

could end up in your drug supply.

For information on treatment or access to Naloxone & Fentanyl test strips:

www.DareNC.gov/Fentanyl



THE INITIATIVE Resources:

savinglivesobx.com

PORT/New Horizons
2808 S Croatan Hwy,
Nags Head, NC 27959
252.441.2324

Trillium Health Resources
www.trilliumncaccesspoint.org
877.685.2415 – 24 Hours a Day

Mobile Crisis Team
24 Hours a Day / 7 Days a Week
866.437.1821

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
988lifeline.org
or call or text 988

Community Care Clinic of Dare
Syringe Services Program
M-Th | 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
252.261.3041

Contact your insurance company to find out more information on local providers and your plan's benefits.



- **Out of the Shadows Suicide Awareness Walk**
FFHS Track Oct. 14 2023, 10 am -1 pm
Contact Brenda Thacker for information
thackerbrenda@hotmail.com
- **Walk Against Addiction**
First Flight High School, Saturday, Sept. 23 2023, 9 am sign-up
Contact Brenda Thacker for information
thackerbrenda@hotmail.com
- **Crossroads OBX**
Crossroads OBX is Christ-centered outreach offering discernment, guidance and objective planning for those who desire to change the course of their lives and help those who have been thrown off course by homelessness, addiction, incarceration or other events.
For more information contact 252.455.2510,
crossroadsobx.org or crossroadsobx@gmail.com
- **Recovery & Overdose Support Services (ROSS)**
Recovery and Overdose Support Services (ROSS) provides support groups, harm reduction education and resources, overdose response, and assistance with recovery planning.
Katy Haslar, PSS, 252.473.7861 or
Jesse Ruby PSS, 475-7923
RecoveryServices@DareNC.com
- **SMART Recovery OBX Addiction Support Group**
When: Mondays, 6-7pm for 60 minutes
Where: The Studio at 3022 S. Croatan Hwy., Nags Head, NC
Facilitators: Scott and Katy Haslar,
smartrecoveryobx@gmail.com
- **Alcoholics Anonymous: Meetings 7 days a week.**
Visit the website AAOBX.com for current virtual meeting schedule. Outer Banks AA Hotline
252-256-0850 and <https://aaobx.com/>
- **Outer Banks Alateen, Outer Banks Alateen Meeting, Saturdays, 10-11am, Kitty Hawk Baptist Church,**
email alateen@alanonobx.com for information.
Alateen is a fellowship of young people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or friend.
- **OBX Nar-anon** is a means of coping with the insanity brought about from having a family member or friend struggling with addiction.
For more details, please contact Holly Henry West
at 252-489-7778.
- **Women of Worth**
Groups are being held virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm. The groups will focus on recovery from the evidence-based curriculum, "Helping Women Recover."
Please contact Catisha Bryant at catisha.bryant@darenc.com for more information or if you would like to join.
- **Breaking Through Task Force, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 8:30 am**
The Breaking Through Task Force is composed of community members who wish to address communication and stigma concerns about mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
Contact Kelly.Nettin@darenc.com
www.breakthestigmaobx.com
- **Dare Community Collaborative, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2:00-3:00 pm. In person and virtual**
A partnership among providers and families of youth and adults with mental health issues and/or substance use issues.
Contact [Stephanie Webb,](mailto:Stephanie.Webb@trilliumnc.org)
stephanie.webb@trilliumnc.org
- **Weekly Recovery Group**
Thursdays, Starting May 25th from 2:30-3:45 pm
At the Community Care Clinic in Nags Head.
The meetings will be facilitated by our Peer Support Specialists and will include the SMART Recovery program combined with Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP). These groups are free and open to participants of the Syringe Services Program, clinic patients, and community members.
For more information, email us at
RecoveryServices@darenc.gov



Your 411 for assistance that isn't 911.

You ask any child or adult in the United States who they should call in an emergency and the majority will tell you "911". Perhaps fewer would be able to tell you the number to call for directory information (411), but that number is still sufficiently well known that "411" is frequently used as a shorthand for "information". 211 is perhaps less well known, but it is a valuable resource for people needing help on a variety of topics including addiction related issues. Prior to 1951, 211 was what callers used to reach a long distance operator to connect calls. With direct dialing, 211 faded from use. Then in 1986, 211 was resurrected by the United Way in San Diego as a referral service for health and social service organizations. In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission approved 211 for nationwide use and by 2017, close to 95 percent of the U.S. population had access to 211 services. The United Way continues to run the 211 system but primarily at a state or local level. North Carolina 211 (NC 211) is a free service that allows people to access information regarding a variety of resources within their community. Information can also be obtained through the NC 211 website (nc211.org). Callers to 211 are connected with a Community Resource Specialist who listens to the caller's problems and will connect the caller to resources in the caller's area that will address their needs. For example, if a Dare County caller needed help with utilities, they might be directed to the Outer Banks Relief Foundation, the Department of Social Services' Emergency Assistance or Interfaith Community Outreach. For substance abuse/mental health services, 211 has a variety of subcategories that callers can choose from, ranging from assessment and treatment to Substance Abuse Disorder services. As some areas (like Dare) have limited service options inside the county, the referral may be to the nearest available agency. For example, for Counseling Settings, the closest help is listed in Raleigh, with other locations as far away as Asheville and New York. However, the 211 Community Resource Specialist will do their best to connect the caller to services that will help them reach their ultimate goal. For example, if someone from Dare County calls needing a service that is only provided in Charlotte, the Community Resource Specialist would investigate the different possibilities for transportation, temporary living assistance and potential funding sources to help the caller. 211 is a great starting place for people who need help but don't know where to turn. It's common to hear advice such as, "Oh, call Social Services" whenever somebody needs assistance, and sometimes Social Services is the answer. But 211 opens a door to a wider world of support and 211's ability to network across agencies both public and private gives them an edge in providing people with the specific sort of assistance they need. The 211 service is free, and operates 24 hrs/day.

Walk Against Addiction

First Flight High School, Saturday, Sept. 23 2023, 9 am sign-up
Contact Brenda Thacker for information: thackerbrenda@hotmail.com

\$10 sign-in fee includes a tote bag, access to our vendors, a free coffee from Dunkin' and Crumbl cookies! Various vendors in the recovery field will be on hand to answer any and all questions pertaining to the disease of addiction in a non-judgmental atmosphere. There will also be a silent auction with items from our community members. Students from Calvino Studios will be playing piano from 9 am until speakers begin. T-shirts and tank tops will be available for sale.

Opening remarks by NC State Senator Bobby Hanig begins at 10 am, followed by our speakers Jesse Ruby and Nathan Finin. After our speakers, we will walk from First Flight High School through the parking lots of First Flight Elementary School and First Flight Middle School. (approximately one mile). After the "Walk," there will be free hamburgers/hot dogs courtesy of Mulligan's Grille.

As in several previous years, the OBX Running Co. will be hosting a 5k run BEFORE the actual Walk Against Addiction begins. This run will begin at 8 am. For further information, contact Brenda Thacker at 252-202-1110.

