

Follow-up information – toxic heroin/fentanyl

August 14, 2017

This bulletin is to provide information after the surge of overdoses that happened in late July/early August. Around the same time, a person who was a tolerant opioid user had a serious overdose after using heroin. A sample of this heroin was analyzed:

- The drug was found to contain fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and toxic fentanyl analogs (*acetyl fentanyl, betahydroxyfentanyl, valeryl fentanyl*).
- The colour was slightly off-white. The texture was powdery, 'normal' for heroin.

Advice for people using opioids/heroin:

- Always use with someone else.
- If you use alone, tell someone where you are. Ask them to check on you.
- Use very slowly, in tiny doses.
- Get naloxone. It can reverse an overdose.
 - ➔ You can get naloxone at The Works, Parkdale Community Health Centre, Regent Park Community Health Centre, South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Queen West Community Health Centre, and Sherbourne Health Centre.
- You can also call 1-800-565-8603 for a list of pharmacies where you can get free naloxone with your health card.

Some symptoms of an opioid overdose:

- Person can't be woken up/ body is limp
- Breathing is very slow, erratic, or has stopped
- Deep snoring, or gurgling sounds
- Lips and/or fingernails are blue or purple.

In an overdose situation get help immediately:

Call 911. Give naloxone. Stay with the person.

It is essential that all overdoses get medical attention!



If you know about an overdose, tell a harm reduction worker about it. You can make an anonymous report online at ReportBadDrugsTO.ca.



The Works
- Needle Exchange

416.338.7600 | toronto.ca/health

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