



# What You Do Not Know Can **Kill You**

## **OVERDOSE DEATHS IN MARYLAND ARE ON THE RISE**

One of the drugs contributing to deaths is **Fentanyl**:

- Fentanyl is an opioid pain reliever that is typically used to treat severe pain from cancer or sickle cell disease; it is known by different brand names like Duragesic, Actiq and Sublimaze.
- Fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. It is **30-40 times more potent than heroin** by weight.
- Illicit versions of Fentanyl are being sold in pill or powder form and cut with other drugs like heroin and cocaine. Even small amounts of illicit fentanyl can have a deadly effect.
- Fentanyl effects are similar to those of heroin and can cause people to stop breathing, leading to death. This can happen so quickly that Narcan is not always successful in saving lives even when readily available. You can't see fentanyl, smell it or taste it. **Sometimes it is sold to people without them even knowing that they are buying it.**
- **Carfentanil**, another drug related to Fentanyl, is so powerful that a dose the size of a grain of salt can rapidly cause overdose and death. It **kills almost instantly.**
- The State of Maryland reported an increase in fentanyl-related deaths in the first quarter of 2017—more than double the deaths compared to the first quarter of 2016 (157 to 372 deaths).

## **IT IS HERE NOW IN MARYLAND; PEOPLE ARE DYING. DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!**

If you or someone you know may need help, Beacon can assist with referrals for treatment.

Please call: 800-888-1965

If you would like to learn more about substance related disorders or other behavioral health concerns please visit Achieve Solutions at the Beacon Health Options website at:

<https://www.achievesolutions.net/achievesolutions/en/maryland/Home.do>



Learn more at: [beaconhealthoptions.com](http://beaconhealthoptions.com) | ph: 1.866.867.2537 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)