

# San Diego and Imperial County Fentanyl Testing Project



**FENTANYL**  
is here and killing San Diego County Residents

Fentanyl can be found in all illicit drugs including powders and pills.

Avoid illicit drugs. Have someone with naloxone close by.

Fentanyl can be found in **any** pill you buy on the street...or in cocaine and meth...and can kill you instantly.

**FATAL DOSE OF FENTANYL**

For information and recovery options call:  
San Diego County Access and Crisis Line:  
1-888-724-1230 Free assistance, 24/7

[www.livewell.org](http://www.livewell.org)

The poster features a large image of hands counting money with pills, and smaller images of pills, a box of naloxone, and a coin.



Roneet Lev, MD  
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# What is Fentanyl?



- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more potent than morphine.
- As little as 2 mg of fentanyl can kill.
- Lethal Fentanyl comes from China or Mexico, not hospitals and pharmacies.
- It is mixed into other illegal drugs.

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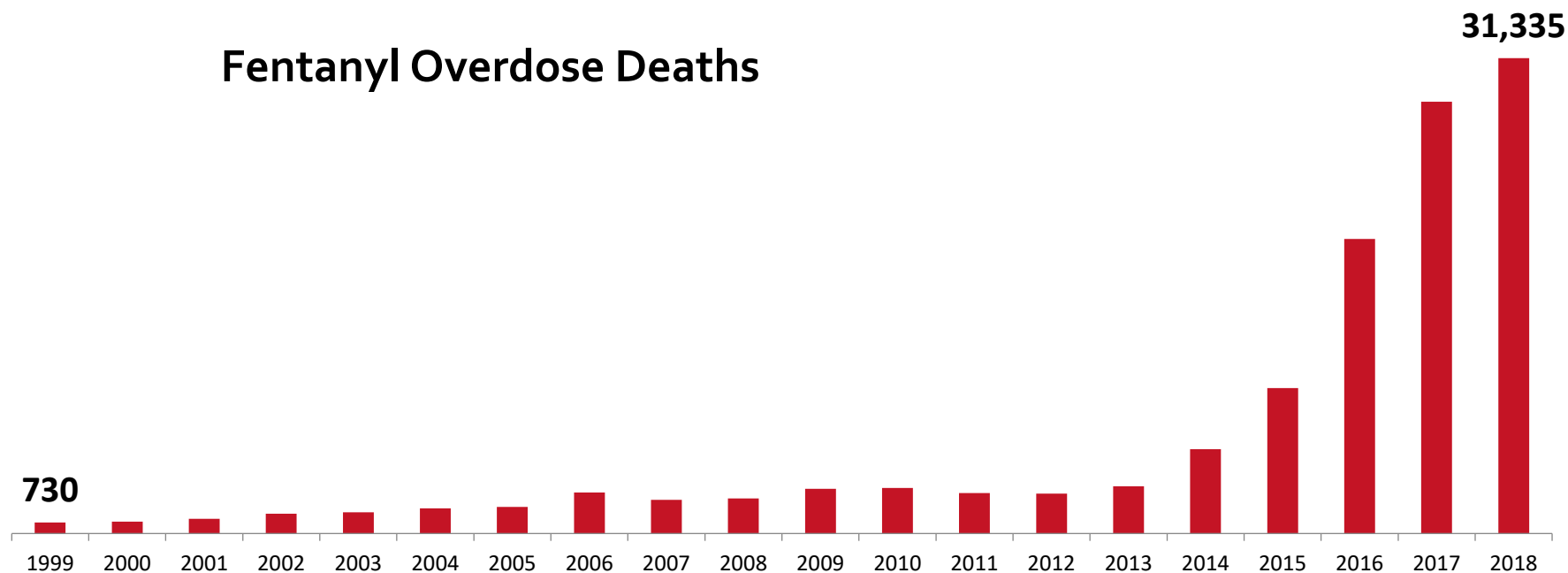
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# The Fentanyl Epidemic in US

## Fentanyl Overdose Deaths



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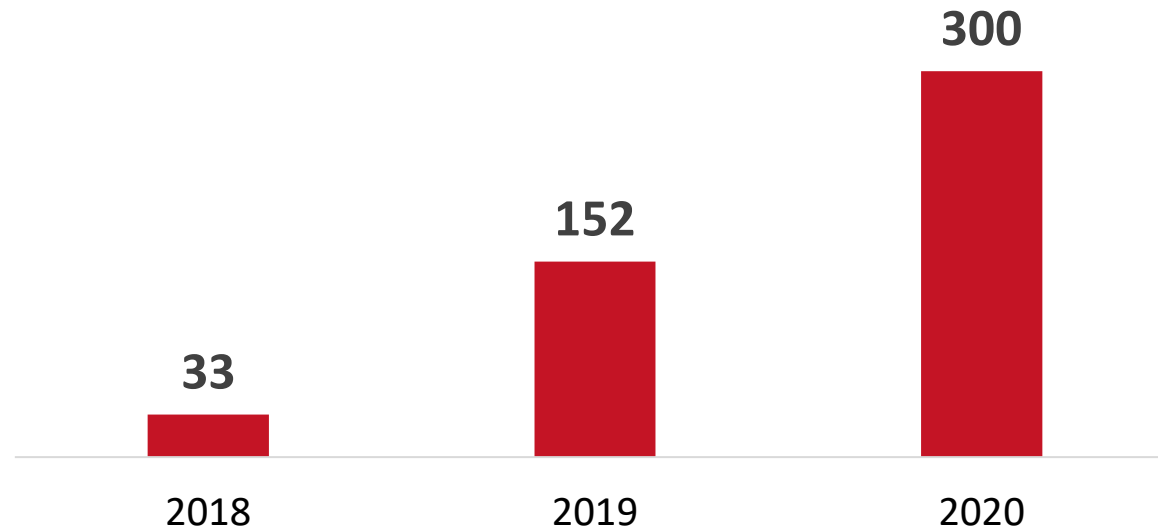
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# The Fentanyl Epidemic in San Diego

## Fentanyl Overdose Deaths





# Where is Fentanyl found?

- Heroin – 50% of heroin deaths included fentanyl
- Cocaine – 50% of cocaine deaths included fentanyl
- Methamphetamine – 25% of methamphetamine deaths included fentanyl
- Fake hydrocodone pills
- Fake oxycodone 30 pills (M30)
- Fake hydrocodone pills (yellow)
- Fake Xanax pills
- Vaping products





# The Gold Standard for Drug testing

- AUTOMATIC
- UNIVERSAL
  - Fentanyl does not show up on a standard drug screen because it is a synthetic opioid , it requires a separate test
  - Any medical order for a urine drug screen should automatically include fentanyl
  - If a provider is concerned about THC, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, PCP or opioids, they are also concerned about fentanyl
- SOLUTION
  1. Purchase Fentanyl reagent for hospital chemical analyzer
  2. Create IT solution that automatically includes fentanyl with urine drug screen



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**STOP**

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# How a positive Fentanyl Test can save lives

1. Warn a provider
2. Warn a patient
3. Warn friends
4. Rx for naloxone
  - For the patient
  - For friends & loved ones
5. Connect to treatment







# Fentanyl Testing Currently Availability

- ✓ Fentanyl immunoassay drug testing is available in real time (within 1 hour) for all hospital that have a chemical analyzer

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that does not detected as part of an opioid panel. Detection requires a separate test and reagent.

- ✓ Fentanyl immunoassay drug test can be sent out with results available in a few days

- ✗ There are no FDA 510(k) cleared point of care rapid urine strip test for fentanyl that is part of a multi-drug panel.

San Diego sent a letter to FDA requesting emergent use of such test



All standard chemical analyzes can utilize fentanyl immunoassay reagents



There are no FDA approved point of care test urine strip test for fentanyl that is part of a multi-drug panel





# San Diego and Imperial County Laboratory Survey

100% of San Diego and Imperial County Hospital Laboratories Completed Survey.

The Questions asked were:

1. Lab contact information
2. Do you have Rapid Fentanyl Testing
3. Name of Chemical Analyzer
4. Fentanyl Reagent used
5. IT solutions



Number of Hospitals surveyed

- Alvarado
- El Centro
- Kaiser San Diego
- Kaiser Zion
- Navy Camp Pendelton
- Navy Balboa
- Palomar Health - Escondido
- Palomar Health - Poway
- Paradise Valley
- Pioneer
- Rady Children
- Scripps Encinitas
- Scripps Green
- Scripps La Jolla
- Scripps Mercy - CV
- Scripps Mercy - SD
- Sharp - CV
- Sharp - Coronado
- Sharp- Grossmont
- Sharp - Memorial
- UC Health - La Jolla
- UCSD- Hillcrest
- Tri-City
- VA - Health



# Fentanyl Reagents – FDA 501K cleared

There are 3 possible Fentanyl assays available in the US as of Dec 2021  
All current San Diego hospitals that test for fentanyl use the Ark Reagent.

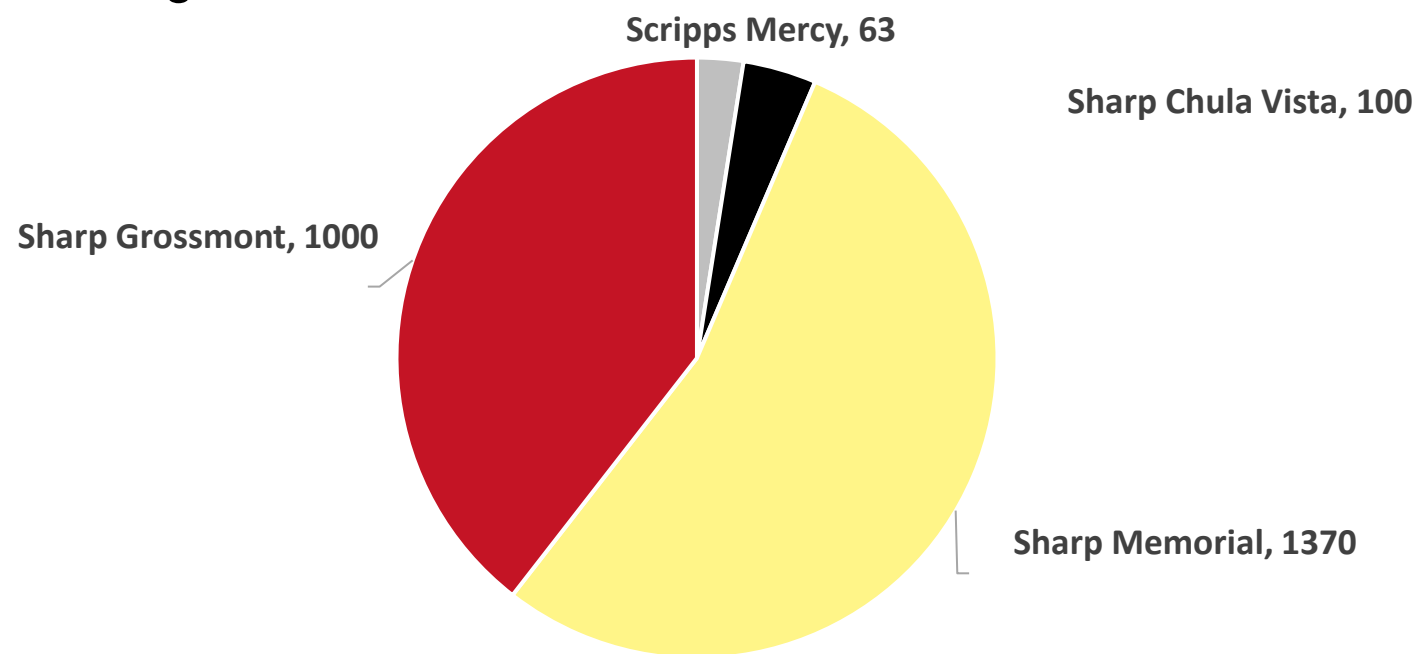
- **Ark** (1 ng/ml fentanyl, cross reacts with norfentanyl)
  - Direct from Ark
  - Sekisui – ARK Fentanyl II assay
  - Siemens
    - [ARK Info](#)
- **Immualysis** (2 ng fentanyl, does not detect norfentanyl)
  - [Immualysis Info](#)
- **Lin-Zhi** (5 ng norfentanyl)
  - MedTest Pointe Scientific distributes the assay made by
  - [Med Test Info](#)





# August 2020 Rapid Fentanyl Tests in San Diego

- 4 out of 24 Hospitals test for Fentanyl
- 2,533 Total Tests in Aug 2020



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# San Diego Chemical Analyzers

Beckman +	Roche +	Seimans	Ortho Vitros
Sharp	Naval/ Balboa	Paradise Valley	Scripps
Kaiser	UC Health	Palomar Health	El Centro
Tri-City		Alvarado	Pioneer
VA Health			





# Goal

- Increase rapid fentanyl testing in San Diego hospitals from 17% to **90%** in 1 year
- **Universal and Automatic** inclusion of fentanyl in random urine drug tests
  - 1. Purchase Fentanyl Reagent
  - 2. IT Solution to automatically include in urine drug screen

