



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Deadly fentanyl remains a growing threat to the lives of people across Texas and across the United States. This is a crisis that touches the lives of everyone, ripping away a son or daughter, a brother or sister, a father or mother, a friend or family member from their loved ones forever and leaving behind unimaginable grief. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45, and we have witnessed a more-than-fivefold increase in fentanyl fatalities in the last four years alone. Fentanyl-related deaths in Texas increased over 600% from 2019 to 2023, taking the lives of more than 7,000 innocent Texans in just four years and leaving countless people to cope with sudden loss.

Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, posing an extraordinary danger. Just two milligrams of the synthetic opioid—smaller than two grains of salt—is lethal. In as little as two minutes, fentanyl poisoning can end a person's life.

Mexican drug cartels strategically manufacture and distribute the drug disguised as painkillers, stimulants, anti-anxiety drugs, and even candy. Victims of fentanyl poisoning are unaware that an alleged prescription pill or other substance they bought online or received at a party is laced with the deadly drug.

In 2021, I launched our historic border security mission, Operation Lone Star, to secure the southern border and stem the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl pouring into our state and our nation. Since then, Texas has seized over 544 million deadly doses of fentanyl—enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States and Mexico combined. But more work remains to be done to save innocent lives.

In that light, my office, alongside various state agencies, has sought to raise awareness and educate Texans about the scourge of fentanyl. In October 2022, the State of Texas launched its comprehensive "One Pill Kills" public awareness campaign to share the heartbreaking true stories of lives lost to fentanyl and educate Texans on how to prevent, recognize, and reverse fentanyl poisonings. Additionally, state agencies, lawmakers, researchers, and law enforcement officials continue working side-by-side to develop innovative solutions to help save countless lives.

During the 88th Texas Legislature, I signed several key laws to fight back against the growing national fentanyl crisis, including House Bill 3144, which establishes October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month in Texas. It is critical that every Texan is aware of the fentanyl crisis plaguing our state and nation. Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month is a statewide effort to protect our friends, our family members, and our loved ones from this clandestine killer. I encourage my fellow Texans to speak openly and have meaningful conversations about the dangers of fentanyl and the opioid poisoning reversal medication naloxone or as its commonly known, NARCAN, which has been distributed to law enforcement personnel in all 254 counties.

One pill kills, but if we work together, we can bring about a better, brighter future in which no Texan loses a loved one to fentanyl poisoning.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 2024 to be

Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 1st day of October, 2024.


Governor of Texas