



# FENTANYL RESOURCE FACTSHEET FOR PROVIDERS



## INTRODUCTION

This snapshot of information is intended to provide resources to individuals, parents, professionals, and providers on fentanyl use among Latinos in the United States.

## WHAT IS FENTANYL?



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## DISPARITIES AMONG HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATIONS

High school-age Hispanic youth had the highest prevalence of select illicit drug use (16.1%) and prescription opioid misuse (15.1%) compared to the total high school-age youth population (14.0% for both) and other races/ethnicities.<sup>4</sup>

In 2017, death rates involving synthetic opioids increased by 617% and were the second highest for Hispanics compared to all other races/ethnicities.<sup>4</sup>

## TREATMENT BARRIERS

Barriers to obtaining effective treatment include stigma, lack of information, language barriers, fear of deportation, lack of health insurance, and resistance to using pharmacotherapy.<sup>2</sup>

Latino clients generally have up to 30% lower odds of receiving medication for opioid use disorder compared to their White counterparts.<sup>5</sup>

# Fentanyl and its impact on Hispanic and Latino Communities



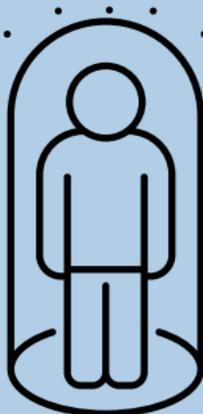
Hispanic/Latino populations diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, are less likely to obtain effective treatments such as buprenorphine and naltrexone, and adherence to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is lower among Hispanics than among whites.<sup>2</sup>

In 2017, 40.2 % of Latino overdose deaths involved fentanyl.<sup>3</sup>



## Environmental Risk Factors

- Immigration history
- Social isolation
- Economic marginalization
- Lack of access to healthcare - harm reduction and treatment services.<sup>3</sup>



## Adverse Health Outcomes

- ADDICTION
- RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION
- UNCONSCIOUSNESS
- COMA
- DEATH<sup>3</sup>



## *Interventions*

Opioid overdose-related deaths can be prevented when naloxone is administered in a timely manner.<sup>6</sup>

Hispanic/Latino populations are less likely to obtain effective medication assisted treatment.<sup>2</sup>

An effective step to closing the access to Naloxone gap in the Hispanic and Latino communities is raising awareness of Naloxone access laws.<sup>7</sup>

Scan the QR code on the right for more information about Naloxone access laws in your state among other resources.<sup>7</sup>



## References

1. [Understanding Drug Overdoses and Deaths](#)
2. [Opioid Knowledge and Perceptions Among Hispanic/Latino Residents in Los Angeles](#)
3. [The Opioid Epidemic Among the Latino Population in California](#)
4. [The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic Latino Population: As Urgent Issue Counseling, and Related Conditions](#)
5. [A Bifurcated Opioid Treatment System and Widening Insidious Disparities](#)
6. [MAT Medications, Counseling, and Related Conditions](#)
7. [State Naloxone Access Rules and Resources](#)

Click here to access our website for additional information.  
[National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center](#)