



# OPIOIDS: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

**Opioids are extremely dangerous  
if not used as prescribed**

## The Facts

Opioids include illegal drugs like heroin, as well as prescription painkillers like oxycodone (Oxycontin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, fentanyl, codeine, and more. Fake versions of these drugs are everywhere - and they can look just like the real thing. Unless a pill comes directly from your doctor or pharmacist, there's no way to tell if it's real or fake.

## TALKING TO TEENS IN YOUR LIFE

**Teens might not be eager to talk about pills, but having the conversation can protect them from the risks.**

- Approach the conversation without judgment. Tell them you want to hear their thoughts and feelings.
- Pay attention to what your child has to say and practice good listening by making time, paying attention, and not doing all the talking.
- Remember that you don't have to have all the answers to start a conversation. If they have questions you can't answer, go online and research the issue together.

# KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

**It's important to remember that even one fake pill laced with fentanyl can kill. (A deadly dose of fentanyl can fit on the tip of a pencil.) Talking to your teen about the facts can help them continue to make healthy choices.**

- Keep your prescriptions locked away, and immediately remove them from your home once they're no longer needed. You can safely dispose of unused and expired meds through Colorado's Medication Takeback Program. More information about safe storage and disposal can be found at:

**[TakeMedsSeriously.org](https://www.TakeMedsSeriously.org)**



- Talk to teens in your life so they know to refuse pills if they are ever offered them. Teens may think a pill is real because it came from a friend or peer. But many pills are counterfeit, and 60% of fake pills have been found to contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.

Talking about the dangers of fentanyl-laced pills can save teens' lives. Get more facts and tips to have the talk at:

**[ConnectEffectCO.org](https://www.ConnectEffectCO.org)**

