

Synthetic opioids and the law...

The synthetic opioids AH-7921, MT-45 and U-47700 are Class A drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act due to the potential health and social harms associated with their use.

The synthetic opioids that were made illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act are still covered by that legislation. All other psychoactive substances not currently covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act now fall under the Psychoactive Substances Act.



If you would like further information on Synthetic Opioids please visit,

www.talktofrank.com/drugs/synthetic-opioids

Or call **FRANK 0800 77 66 00**



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For information on Ketamine, Alcohol or other drugs please ask or see our other publications including Reducing the Risks of Snorting.



Young People's Drug & Alcohol
Service for West Berkshire



Synthetic
Opioids
Fentanyl

What are Synthetic opioids

Synthetic Opioids are man-made drugs created to try and replicate the effects of natural opioids. Synthetic opioids usually appear as white powder.

Medical synthetic opiates, such as fentanyl, are available as patches, pills, tablets and solutions for injection. Fentanyls are a family of synthetic opioids - they range in potency but some are incredibly strong and can be effective at very small doses. 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

How is it used

Synthetic opioids can be injected, sniffed, swallowed or heated and inhaled. Sniffing or inhaling synthetic opioids may damage your throat and nose.

There are also risks from sharing needles, syringes and other equipment used for injecting, such as spreading of blood borne viral infections, developing tissue infections and risk of damage to the veins and arteries.

What are its effects

Synthetic Opioids, like natural opioids, alter the way pain is received giving the impression that pain is reduced and produces feelings of euphoria, relaxation, sleepiness and well-being.

What are the problems

Synthetic opioids carry lots of the same risks as natural opioids, such as;

- Dizziness
- Fainting
- Loss of consciousness
- Nausea
- Skin itching
- Constipation
- Sweating
- Suppressed breathing
- Blurred vision
- Temporary hearing loss
- overdose

Mixing synthetic opioids with other drugs and alcohol can have serious consequences and could lead to a coma or respiratory failure and make overdose and death much more likely. In the UK, Fentanyl is being increasingly used as a cheap additive to heroin and many more overdoses and deaths are being reported as linked to the fentanyl family.

- Do not Use Alone
- Make sure you have Naloxone
- Be really careful about strengths
- Smoke rather than inject
- Ensure you know what to do in an emergency
- Do not mix
- Give treatment immediately if suspected overdose
- Make sure all your mates also know what to do in an emergency

Long term effects

Long term use of synthetic opioids can include addiction, liver damage, abdominal distension, bloating and brain damage as a result of respiratory depression.

Majority of drug users who become addicted to opioids or synthetic opioids will need to offend in order to get their drugs. Therefore some of the further risks of using and addiction are;

- Loss of Liberty
- Loss of job
- Loss of housing
- Loss of family
- Children becoming looked after
- Long term health problems

Continued use of opioids can result in physical dependence and addiction.

