

## Opioid Prevention Parent Information Video

### Speaker 1

Hello parents. We want to take a moment to talk to you about something important that's affecting teens today, fentanyl and fake pills. As we all know, middle school is a time when kids are trying to figure things out and some may be exposed to different substances. It's important for you to be informed, so that you can talk to your student about staying safe. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that's 50 times stronger than heroin. It's been showing up in fake pills that are being sold to students through social media, friends, and just around town. These counterfeit pills look exactly like common prescription drugs, medications like Adderall, Xanax, Percocet, and others. Because these pills are often designed to look like the real thing, it's hard to know the difference. The risk of overdose is real, and even just a small amount of fentanyl can be potentially deadly.

And when it comes to learning about fentanyl and fake pills, 78% of Oregon teens listed their parents as their most preferred source for providing this type of information. To help spread important health and safety information, our school has launched a postcard and poster campaign created by the Oregon Department of Education, WestEd and Song for Charlie, along with the help of Oregon Middle School students. The next couple of slides are examples of the campaign materials. Your students will see this campaign around campus with clear facts about fentanyl and fake pills, and empowering messages about resisting peer pressure and taking care of their safety. These posters and postcards are all designed to educate and empower students to make informed decisions to keep themselves and their friends safe. We encourage you to have ongoing conversations with your students about the dangers and to reinforce the messages they're seeing at school.

When you have these conversations, keep in mind young people prefer quick nonjudgmental health-focused chats. In addition to sharing your family's values and expectations around substance use, remind them of these things. If a drug is not from their doctor or a pharmacy, it's not safe, and true friends will respect your choices and have your back in making safe decisions. If you're not quite sure how to start these conversations at home, try leading with a question that will let your child do some of the talking. Here are a few to consider. What do you know about fentanyl? Why do you think people use substances? Why do you think most teens do not use substances? In general, stay curious and open to what your child has to say. If you would like more information on this topic and tips on how to have productive conversations with your student, visit OHA's Fentanyl toolkit for schools. Together we can make sure our students are informed and protected. Thank you for your support and keeping our school community safe.