

IT'S ABOUT PAIN

FENTANYL: WHAT? HOW? AND WHY?

Over 70,000 Americans died from fentanyl poisoning in 2021 and close to 100,000 in 2022.

WHAT: Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more powerful than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. It comes from China, and is modified in Mexico before being shipped across the (supposed) US/Mexican border. Last year, 14,700 pounds of shipments were intercepted by the US Border Protection Service, but last month, 12,500 pounds were confiscated, a small portion of what's coming in.

HOW: Chemists in China produce 4-Piperidinone, a powder that is "legal" in China and is openly shipped to ports on the west coast of Mexico in boxes that are labelled "Dog Food." Two competing cartels easily bribe customs officials so that the product gets to cartel labs in northern Mexico. *The value at this point is \$200 per kilogram.*

In the lab, the 4-Pip is mixed with other chemicals, cooked, dried, and pressed into tablets that look like candy pellets or legitimate pharmaceutical pills. *The value now is \$3000-5000 per kilogram.*

The product then is stashed in trucks, often commingled with food and other products, and shipped across the border, and sometimes in or on vehicles driven by Americans...often unbeknownst to the owner. Some 200,000 cars/trucks cross daily. *The value upon arrival is \$20,000 per kilogram.*

Once near a major distribution center like New York, the truck driver transfers about 20 kilograms to a car, whose driver brings it into the city. *The value now is \$35,000 per kilogram.*

Now, in apartments in nice neighborhoods, air-conditioned for safety and windows shaded for security, the fentanyl is "cut" with inert substances and scooped into envelopes of single-sized doses. "Packagers" (who earn \$800 per day) pack the drugs into glassine envelopes using small scoops, turning out 100,000 2 milligram packages per day. One dose is the size of 10-20 grains of salt. Sometimes fentanyl mix contains Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer that suppresses breathing and resists Narcan. *The approximate value is now \$300,000 per kilogram.*

Next, wholesalers deliver the bags, directly or via intermediaries, to street dealers. They're hidden in car consoles, secret compartments, book bags, or in underwear. Receiving street dealers pay about \$8 per glassine, which can contain 10 "bundles," 50 "bricks," or 100 "sleeves." Addicts pay \$3-5 per dose; and the seller keeps 20%. *The approximate value is now \$1,000,000 per kilogram.*

WHY: Customers are likely addicted for life. Cartel networks, probably corporate, make fantastic money, which (at least in Mexico) can corrupt governmental authorities and influence policy.

Source: *NY POST 2/18/23 Tracking Fentanyl's Deadly Path from China to Mexico to ODs in America.*