

DRUG WARNING

HEROIN may contain fentanyl and acetylfentanyl, which are dangerous opioids

Use of these drugs can be life-threatening.

Know the risks

- Heroin may contain dangerously strong opioids like fentanyl, no matter what it looks like. However, there have been recent reports of heroin containing fentanyl and acetylfentanyl that turns purple when mixed with water.
- Acetylfentanyl and fentanyl are both highly potent opioids and even small doses can cause overdose and even death very quickly.
- Illicit drugs with variable purity and contents are being seen in NSW in 2021.

Effects to look out for

- Overdose symptoms include drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slow breathing/snoring and skin turning blue.

Getting help

If you see the warning signs of overdose:

Seek help immediately from your nearest emergency department or call **Triple Zero (000)**. Stay with your mate and on the phone with the operator until the ambulance arrives.

If someone is not breathing, start **CPR** if you know how.

Use **naloxone** if you have it. Call '000' even if naloxone has been given.



Fentanyl and acetylfentanyl have been found in heroin in central Sydney during January 2021. These drugs were also found in regional NSW and Sydney during November and December 2020.

Support and advice



For free and confidential advice:

- Call [Alcohol and Drug Information Service](#) (ADIS) on 1800 250 015 at any time 24/7. Start a [Web Chat](#) with an ADIS counsellor Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm.
- Call [NUAA](#) on 1800 644 413 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) to speak to a peer or visit www.nuaa.org.au for a range of resources on opioids and naloxone.
- Call the [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#) on 13 11 26 for information on adverse effects from drugs.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for fact sheets and other resources.

Take Home Naloxone Program

- **Naloxone** is an easy to use, life-saving medicine that can temporarily reverse an overdose from fentanyl or other opioid drugs. People at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or who may witness an overdose can get naloxone for free without a prescription from some NSW community pharmacies, NSW Health needle and syringe programs, opioid treatment services and NUAA.
- For participating pharmacies and more information on take-home naloxone: <https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/getting-help/Pages/Naloxone.aspx>.
- Call '000' even if naloxone has been administered. Repeat doses may be required.

