

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DRUG AWARENESS

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INTRODUCTION

• Captain Brensel

20 years of law enforcement experience with 7 years in Washington County Narcotics, DEA Clan Lab certified, Graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, DEA Basic Narcotics Enforcement certified, 3 years as a DEA Task Force Officer, Omaha District Office. Captain Brensel has testified in numerous local, State and Federal trials involving the purchase, sale and use of controlled substances.



TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Identify commonly used controlled substances
- Discuss the effects both physical and psychological
- Identify and discuss common hiding, storage and transport locations
- Discuss methods in which controlled substances are commonly used



PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- Prescription drug abuse involves taking a prescription medication that isn't yours or taking your own prescription medication in a way that differs from your doctor's instructions. It's a common misconception that abusing prescription medications is safer than taking illegal street drugs. Abusing prescription medications is very dangerous, and can even be deadly. The potential to overdose on a prescription medication or become addicted is very real.
- About 16 million people in the U.S. abuse prescription medications. In general, men abuse prescription medications more than women. The exception to this is among people age 12 to 17. In this group, females abuse prescription medications more than males. An estimated 20% of high school students admit to taking a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription. Prescription drug abuse rates are highest during the teens and 20s, although rates are increasing among those in their 50s ("baby boomers").



PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- Some people mistakenly believe abusing prescription drugs is safer than taking street drugs. That's not the case. Abuse or misuse of prescription medications can lead to tolerance, which refers to the body's adaptation to the long-term use of a substance to the point where it no longer produces the desired effect. The result is that a person needs a higher dose of the substance to achieve the same response produced previously by a lower dose.
- Withdrawal refers to symptoms that occur after stopping or decreasing the dose of a substance that has been used for some time. Withdrawal symptoms can range from mild to life threatening. Requiring more of a substance to achieve the desired effect (tolerance) and experiencing negative symptoms when a substance is decreased or stopped abruptly (withdrawal) are features of physical dependence.
- Addiction is a brain condition that refers to intense seeking, craving, and using of a substance, even though it is harmful. Physical dependence is often, but not always, a component of addiction.



PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- Pain killers called opioids are by far the most commonly abused prescription medications. These medications work by decreasing the perception of pain. Medications in this class include hydrocodone and acetaminophen (Vicodin), oxycodone and acetaminophen (Percocet), oxycodone (OxyContin), fentanyl (Duragesic), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), morphine (Avinza, Kadian), and codeine. Opioid misuse/abuse is responsible for about 75% of overdose-related deaths. That's more than any other prescription or illegal drug.
- Opioids affect reward centers in the brain. People take them recreationally to experience a sense of euphoria. When abused, opioids can lead to sedation, dizziness, weakness, sweating, and more. Just one high dose of an opioid can depress breathing and lead to coma, or even death. Lowering the dose or abruptly stopping opioids may lead to withdrawal symptoms including restlessness, vomiting, diarrhea, pain, and chills.



OXYCONTIN



OXYCONTIN

- Oxycodone is considered to be a Schedule II controlled substance. This means that it is under the legal control of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the U.S. Department of Justice. One of the main factors dictating a drug's "schedule," its degree of regulation, is the drug's potential for abuse. Once a drug is classified as a controlled substance, it becomes subject to a formal system that requires registration, record keeping, distribution restrictions, dispensing limits, manufacturing security and reports to the DEA.
- Oxycodone is an agonist opioid. Opioid agonists are some of the most effective pain relievers available. Unlike other analgesics, opioid agonists have an increasing analgesic effect with increased doses. Meaning that the more you take, the better you feel. Other analgesics, like aspirin or acetaminophen, have a threshold to their effectiveness. You can see why, particularly for people who suffer chronic pain, a medication like OxyContin can be so beneficial but also has a substantial risk of addiction. It can potentially provide up to four times the relief of a non-opioid analgesic, so even the most severe degree of pain can be managed.

OXYCONTIN

- Once oxycodone enters the body, it works by stimulating certain opioid receptors that are located throughout the central nervous system, in the brain and along the spinal cord. When the oxycodone binds to the opioid receptors, a variety of physiologic responses can occur, ranging from pain relief to slowed breathing to euphoria.
- When abused, OxyContin, like other opiates and opioids, can be dangerously addictive. Rather than ingesting the pill as indicated, people who abuse OxyContin use other methods of administering the drug. To avoid the controlled-release mechanism, they either chew, snort or inject the medication to get an instant and intense "high." Frequent and repeated use of the drug can cause the user to develop a tolerance to its effects, so larger doses are required to elicit the desired sensation and the abuser gets increasingly addicted to the drug.
- Can range from \$5-\$12 per pill street value

FENTANYL





FENTANYL

- Fentanyl is a potent, synthetic opioid analgesic - excellent for controlling serious pain, but also with huge abuse potential. It is 80 to 500 times stronger than morphine.
- Any person who uses fentanyl and doesn't have an opioid tolerance is risking his/her health. In other words, a first time user who decides to 'experiment' or use Fentanyl recreationally places themselves in extreme danger of overdose.
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) classifies fentanyl as a Schedule II controlled substance. Essentially, this means it has a high potential for abuse, and its use could be dangerous. Addiction to fentanyl can grab a hold of a user very quickly, so prescription use should be closely monitored by a patient's physician.



FENTANYL





FENTANYL

• **Fentanyl side effects include:**

- Nausea.
- Vomiting.
- Constipation.
- Altered heart rate.
- Slowed breathing rate.
- Confusion.
- Hallucinations.
- Weakness.
- Sweating.
- Itchy skin.
- Constricted pupils.
- Seizures.



CDC STATISTICS

- From 1999 to 2016 opioid overdose deaths increased 800%
 - The five states with the highest rates of death (per 100,000 people) due to drug overdose are as follows
- West Virginia- 52.0
Ohio- 39.1
New Hampshire- 39
Pennsylvania-37.9
Kentucky-33.5



CDC STATISTICS

- Other states with a significant rise in drug overdose deaths in Michigan, Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota.
- Nationally in 2016 63,632 were killed by drug overdoses
- According to the CDC 2/3 or 66% of these deaths involved a prescription of illicit opioid.



FENTANYL

- Fentanyl is especially dangerous due to the fact that it can be used to cut with several other drugs. Fentanyl, whether in powder or liquid form can be absorbed through the skin and/or mucus membranes therefore contact should always be avoided.
- In the last year Omaha Metro 1st responders have administered more than 350 doses of Naloxone.
- 3 to 4 doses on one subject are not uncommon
- If you suspect the presence of Fentanyl, back away, secure the area and call hazmat for disposal.



CARFENTANIL



CARFENTANIL

- Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid analgesic fentanyl that is 100 times as potent as fentanyl and 5,000 times as potent the same amount of heroin.
- It's an elephant tranquilizer.



METHAMPHETAMINE





METHAMPHETAMINE

- **What Is Crystal Meth?**
- The chemical n-methyl-1-phenyl-propan-2-amine is called methamphetamine, methylamphetamine, or desoxyephedrine. The shortened name is simply 'meth'. When it is in its crystalline form, the drug is called crystal meth, ice, Tina, or glass. See the table below for other street names of the drug. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant.
- **How Is Crystal Meth Used?**
- Usually, crystal meth is smoked in glass pipes, similar to how crack cocaine is used.
- It may be injected (either dry or dissolved in water), snorted, swallowed, or inserted into the anus or urethra.



METHAMPHETAMINE

- **Why Is Crystal Meth Used?**
- Females often take crystal meth because it can cause extremely rapid weight loss. However, the effects are short term. The body builds up a tolerance to the drug so weight loss tapers off and stops around six weeks after taking the drug. Also, the weight that is lost is regained once a person stops taking methamphetamine. For these reasons, combined with how addictive the drug is, methamphetamine tends not to be prescribed by doctors for weight loss.
- Some people take meth because of the long-lasting high that it gives. Methamphetamine causes numerous neurotransmitters to be released in the brain, producing a sense of euphoria that may last as long as 12 hours, depending on how the drug was taken.
- Methamphetamine is popular as a stimulant. As a stimulant, methamphetamine improves concentration, energy, and alertness while decreasing appetite and fatigue.
- Methamphetamines are also taken by people who are feeling depressed. They may be taken for their side effect of increasing libido and sexual pleasure.



METHAMPHETAMINE (EFFECTS)

- This is a list of effects associated with pure methamphetamine use. Because of how it's made, crystal meth is never pure, so the dangers associated with taking the street drug extend beyond these effects.
- Common Immediate Effects
- Euphoria
- Increased energy and alertness
- Diarrhea and nausea
- Excessive sweating
- Loss of appetite, insomnia, tremors, jaw-clenching



METHAMPHETAMINE (EFFECTS CONT.)

- Agitation, irritability, talkativeness, panic, compulsive fascination with repetitive tasks, violence, confusion
- Increased libido
- Increased blood pressure, body temperature, heart rate, blood sugar levels, bronchodilation
- Constriction of the walls of the arteries
- In pregnant and nursing women, methamphetamine crosses the placenta and is secreted in breast milk



METHAMPHETAMINE (LONG TERM EFFECTS)

- Tolerance (needing more of the drug to get the same effect)
- Drug craving
- Temporary weight loss
- Withdrawal symptoms including depression and anhedonia
- "Meth Mouth" where teeth rapidly decay and fall out
- Drug-related psychosis (may last for months or years after drug use is discontinued)



METHAMPHETAMINE (EFFECTS)



CONCEALMENT

- Small amounts of any drug can be placed in a highlighter in the space between its nub and the tip of the cap.
- Some users hide cocaine inside pen barrels. This part of the pen can also be used to snort the drug.
- Lip-gloss and lipstick containers can conceal ecstasy tablets, LSD or small amounts of cocaine. It's always assumed that these containers carry the product as advertised, so very few people would think to open the cap to check.
- Individually wrapped sanitary napkins can conceal small amounts of illegal drugs in a woman's purse. The drugs can be placed in a baggie inside the unused pad, and the pad is rewrapped. If the pads are carried in a small pouch inside the purse, the one concealing the drugs can simply be tucked away. It's highly unlikely that anyone would ever go to the trouble of opening individual feminine hygiene products looking for drugs.
- Candy or gum wrappers may not contain the product they were originally intended to protect. The wrappers can be carefully removed and the originally item discarded, only to be replaced with small amounts of drugs. Once replaced, the ends of the wrappers can be glued closed.

CONCEALMENT

- Belt buckles can hold a small amount of drugs, and some shops (both brick and mortar and online) carry specialized merchandise designed for this purpose.
- Bras, underwear and body orifices remain common locations of concealment.

REFERENCE SOURCES

- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Washington County Sheriff's Office
 - Omaha Police Department
 - Baltimore Department of Public Health
 - Onhealth.com
 - Drugs.com
 - Drugabuse.com
 - Getsmartaboutdrugs.com
- And as always... YouTube.com



QUESTIONS??????????

