

If you or someone you know is taking drugs, the first step is getting help

Many people use drugs to deal with depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues. The best way to manage drug use and / or addiction is to partner with a team of counselors, medical providers, and supportive family members. If you need help, or suspect a loved one needs help, check with your local resources to determine the best course of action.

Keeping your prescription medications safe

It is important to keep prescription medications, especially pain relievers and ADHD medications, out of the hands of those who might misuse them. Make sure your medications are stored out of sight, up high, and in a secure place. If you need to dispose of unused medications, mix pills in with something else, such as coffee grounds, litter, etc. to keep thieves from easily spotting medication in the trash.



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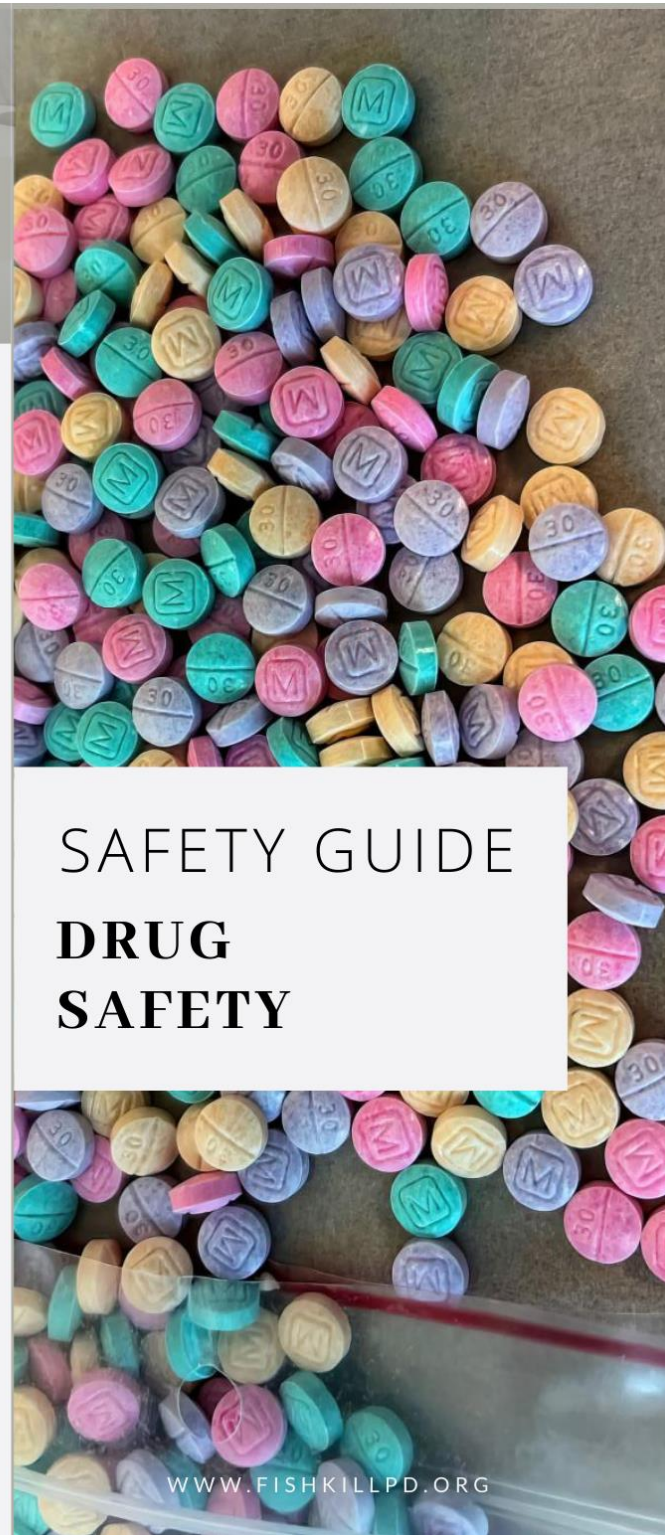
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DEA Warns of Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans

The Drug Enforcement Administration is advising the public of an alarming emerging trend of colorful fentanyl available across the United States. Since August 2022, DEA and law enforcement partners seized brightly colored fentanyl and fentanyl pills in 26 states, including 300,000 fentanyl pills and 20 pounds of fentanyl in the Bronx. Dubbed "rainbow fentanyl" in the media, this trend appears to be a new method used by drug cartels to sell highly addictive and potentially deadly fentanyl made to look like candy to children and young people.

DEA encourages parents and families to have open and honest communications with their loved ones, especially young people, about the dangers of fentanyl and fake pills. Never take a pill that wasn't prescribed directly to you by your doctor. Never take a pill from a friend. Just one pill can be deadly.



As teens encounter isolation, anxiety and social pressures, they are particularly susceptible to drug use. Talk to your teen often about how they are feeling.

The FDA provides the following steps to ensure treats are safe for kids

- Children shouldn't snack on treats from their goody bags while they're out trick-or-treating. Give them a light meal or snack before they head out and urge them to wait until they get home so you can sift through the candy.
- Tell children not to accept or eat anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away what looks suspicious.
- If your child has a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present.
- If you have young children, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.



Check in with your teens

It is important for kids and teens to feel comfortable talking with their parents about drugs and drug use. Start the conversation at a young age - let kids know about the risks of drug use, and ask them for their thoughts. Once kids reach their teens, they will probably encounter peers who use drugs. Talk to your teens about their experiences, and remind them that you are a source of information and support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KEEPING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.