

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: CDC Report of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl

A 2021 year-end report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies trends in and characteristics of drug overdose deaths involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl's (IMF) in the United States between 2019–2020.

During May 2020–April 2021, the estimated number of drug overdose deaths in the United States exceeded 100,000 over a 12-month period for the first time, with 64.0% of deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone -mainly illicitly fentanyl's that was introduced primarily as adulterants in or replacements for white powder heroin east of the Mississippi River

IMFs are now widespread in white powder heroin markets, increasingly pressed into counterfeit pills resembling oxycodone, alprazolam, or other prescription drugs, and are expanding into new markets, including in the western United States. During July 2019–December 2020, IMF-involved deaths increased sharply in midwestern (33.1%), southern (64.7%), and western (93.9%) jurisdictions. Approximately four in 10 IMF-involved deaths also involved a stimulant and 56% of decedents had no pulse when first responders arrived. Injection drug use was reported in 25% of deaths, and noninjection routes of drug use in 27% of deaths.

According to the CVDC, the implications for public health include adapting and expanding overdose prevention, harm reduction, and response efforts to address the high potency and various routes of use for IMFs. Enhanced treatment for substance use disorders is also needed to address the increased risk for overdose and treatment complications associated with using IMFs with stimulants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency that conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health. To learn more about the CDC please visit www.cdc.gov.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled. "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on

www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org.