

# DRUG WARNING

## HEROIN may contain the dangerous opioids fentanyl and acetylfentanyl

Use of these drugs can be life-threatening.

### Know the risks

- Heroin may contain dangerously strong opioids (fentanyl and acetylfentanyl). Purple coloured heroin in particular may contain fentanyl and acetylfentanyl.
- Acetylfentanyl and illicit fentanyl are both highly potent opioids and can cause unexpected, rapid and life-threatening overdose, even in very small doses.
- Illicit drugs with variable purity and contents are being seen in NSW in 2020.

### Effects to look out for

- Serious adverse effects may include drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slow breathing 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)**.

Start **CPR** if someone is not breathing.

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



Acetylfentanyl and fentanyl have been found unexpectedly in drugs in Western NSW and Sydney in November 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 Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm.

For information about potential adverse effects from drugs:

- Call the [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#) on 13 11 26.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for fact sheets and other resources.
- Visit [NUAA](#) or call 1800 644 413 for a range of resources to support you and your friends.



### 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 and NSW Health needle and syringe programs.
- 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.

