

# Fentanyl Use in a Pediatric Addiction Clinic

Sivabalaji Kaliamurthy MD, Qais Zalim MD, Anna Carleen MD

## INTRODUCTION

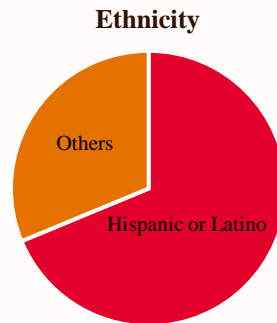
- Adolescents are experiencing an increase in overdose fatalities at a higher rate than the overall population.
- More pediatric patients are seeking treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) driven by fentanyl use than previously seen.
- Our understanding of the needs and challenges of adolescents using fentanyl is poor due to lack of data in this age group.
- The Addiction Clinic at Children's National was established in March 2022 to meet needs of kids struggling with an addiction.

## METHODS

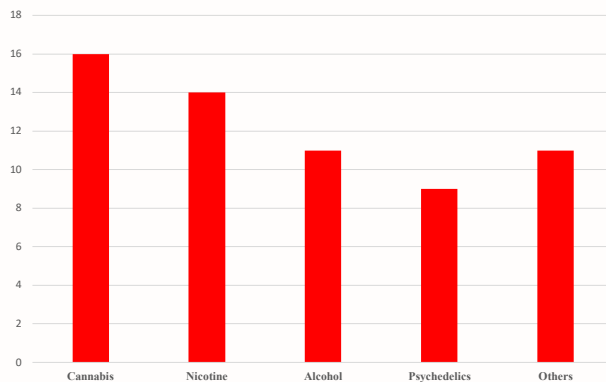
- Retrospective chart review of patients presenting to the addiction program in Children's National Hospital.
- All patients with OUD who entered treatment between March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and January 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 were included.
- The following data from chart at intake collected; age, gender, ethnicity, other psychiatric and substance use diagnoses, family history, age at first use of opioids, type of opioid used, route of administration, urine drug screen results and medication prescribed to treat OUD.

**80%** of adolescents chose to start MOUD.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 16.25 | Average age (years) at presentation        |
| 15    | Average age (years) at first opioid use    |
| 12.6  | Average age (years) at first substance use |



Other Substances Used



SCAN ME



## KEY FINDINGS

- 16 patients sought help for fentanyl use during the evaluated time period.
- 11/16 patients presented were referred after presenting to the Children's National Inpatient hospital unit or from the emergency room.
- 13 of patients reported using "M30" or "Perc 30" pills and the remaining 3 reported knowing that they were using fentanyl pills.
- All of them either used intra-nasally or inhaled fumes produced by heating in foil. No one reported intravenous use.
- 13 enrolled in medication assisted treatment for OUD. 10 chose buprenorphine/naloxone and 3 chose oral naltrexone.
- Most adolescents who presented for treatment of OUD at Children's National were Hispanic, female, and with Medicaid based insurance.
- All urine drug screens tested positive for fentanyl, none tested positive for other opioids.
- 13 patients had Medicaid based insurance, 2 had private insurance and 1 had no insurance.

## NEXT STEPS

- Track outcome data for patients choosing buprenorphine vs naltrexone.
- Create Spanish language resources.
- Identify other system-based barriers minors face in seeking care for fentanyl use.