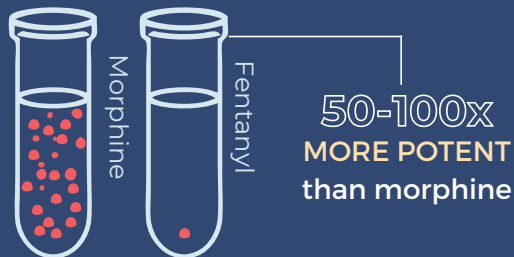




# FENTANYL: overdoses & impacts in Colorado

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



DEA lab testing reveals that **2** out of every **5** pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

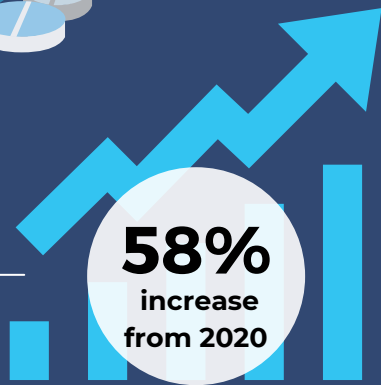
## ILLEGALLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Although opioid prescription rates have fallen, overdoses associated with fentanyl have risen dramatically, contributing to a sharp spike in synthetic opioid deaths.

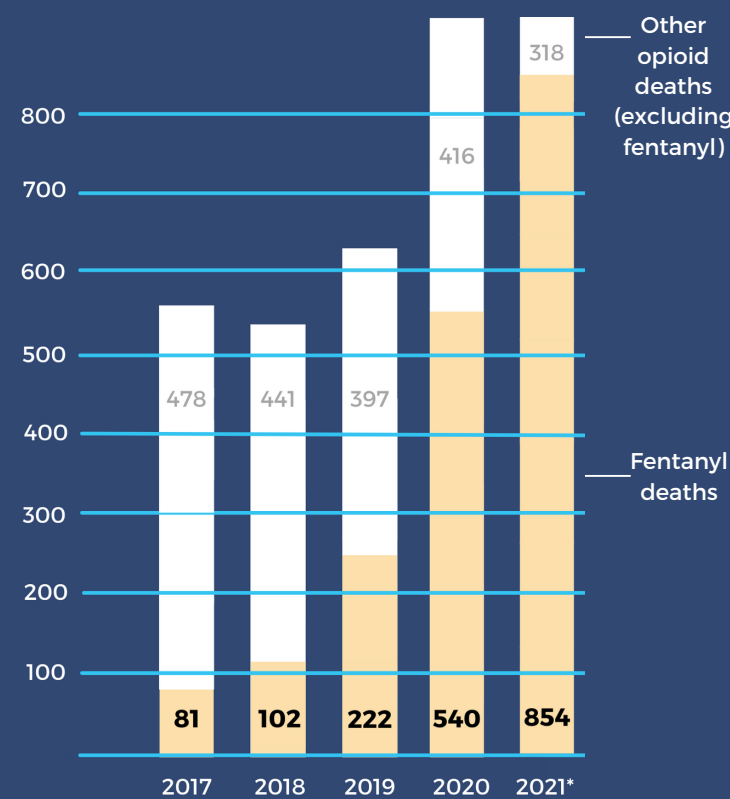
Often mixed into counterfeit versions of Oxycontin, Xanax, Adderall, and drugs like cocaine and heroin—without knowledge of the user.

~~You typically can't see, smell, or taste fentanyl when it's mixed with other drugs.~~

In 2021, there were **854** fentanyl-related overdose deaths compared to 540 deaths in 2020.\*



Fentanyl-related deaths in Colorado drove the increase in opioid overdoses in 2021:



For more info about what the Colorado Attorney General's Office is doing to combat the fentanyl and opioid crisis, visit our page [here](#) OR scan here.



\*according to preliminary data from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).