



We Heard from You, Here's What We Learned!

Results from 2022 Interviews about Fentanyl

WHO

We talked to 30 people who regularly used fentanyl, at syringe services programs in WA.

WHY

To learn why people use fentanyl, and what services and supports people want.

WHEN

Surveys were conducted in the Fall of 2022.

Why people use fentanyl:

- Lessen physical pain
- Numb emotions
- Avoid withdrawal / Addiction
- Get high

Concerns about fentanyl:

- Withdrawal comes on too fast
- Deadly, high overdose risk
- Unpredictable, sometimes too strong or too weak
- Loss of connection to loved ones

What would help:

- Housing and other basic needs
- Kind, low-barrier, non-stigmatizing health care, social services, and addiction treatment providers
- Medical pain management
- Harm reduction support: smoking supplies, safe drug supply, syringes
- Cash
- Rebuilding connections to loved ones

What would ideal treatment look like:

The general vibe would...be acceptance, and love, and you don't have to hurt yourself to not hurt here. Because all that is hurting ourselves out there. You're safe here.

Well, it's just that it just numbs my body, my mind and my body. It makes me feel really, really good. It just shuts you off from the rest of the world.

It's just really just trying to live day to day, have a place to sleep, have clothes to wear, a change of clothes, hygiene products, and those kinds of things. It's difficult enough while living on the street and having a fentanyl habit or using fentanyl to the extent that it's used by myself or a lot of people out here.



70%

~70% of people said they'd like to reduce or stop their fentanyl use.

What stands in their way?

Lack of housing, lack of access to care, previous experience with judgmental providers, and being connected to other people who are still using fentanyl.

Read the full report here: adai.uw.edu/ideal-care-fentanyl-2023

If you want to cut back or quit, scan the QR code for resources or contact the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1.866.789.1511, warecoveryhelpline.org

