



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Prevalence of synthetic opioid adulterants in New York State

PURPOSE: To examine the prevalence of synthetic opioid abuse in New York State and the extent to which they are contaminating illicit drug supplies

**Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Hearing Room C
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248**

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

Synthetic opioids, such as Fentanyl, are laboratory-made substances that act on the same targets in the brain as natural opioids and can be hundreds of times deadlier. Synthetic opioid overdoses have been sharply increasing in New York over the past decade. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) provisional drug overdose death counts, synthetic opioids were responsible for 31% of all opioid overdose deaths in New York in 2015; by June 2023, they were responsible for 93%. Over this time, synthetic opioid overdose deaths increased by 685%.

Since June 2023, synthetic opioid overdoses have fallen by 7.4% in this state but continue to represent 93% of opioid overdose deaths. The CDC data shows that while some progress has been made, New York State continues to face an ongoing opioid crisis that is being accelerated by synthetic opioids. However, the specifics of how synthetic opioids are entering the illicit drug supply is still unknown. This demonstrates a pressing need to examine the prevalence of synthetic opioids in New York and the extent to which synthetic opioid adulterants are being added to illicit drug supplies.

The Committee would like to examine these issues as well as gather more information specifically on the demographics of those most affected by synthetic opioids, whether users seek out synthetic opioids or if adulterants are added to supplies without user knowledge, and the toxicology methods used to identify what adulterants are being added to illicit drug supplies. By hearing from stakeholders on the frontline of this crisis, the Committee hopes to better understand the challenges New Yorkers are facing in this crisis and how to best address them.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Phil Steck
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the prevalence of synthetic opioid adulterants in New York State are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email, or fax it to:

Sierra Stevenson
Legislative Analyst
Assembly Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Room 442 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: stevensons@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371
Fax: (518) 455-4379

☐ I plan to attend the following public hearing on the prevalence of synthetic opioid adulterants in New York State to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 10:00 am.

☐ I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

☐ I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

☐ I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

☐ I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

☐ I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

☐ I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____