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Opinion Editorial

One of the most prominent problems that we have on Staten Island is a large amount of overdose deaths from fentanyl across the borough. Fentanyl is more powerful than morphine and has caused close to 80% of overdose deaths in New York City. Even though Fentanyl deaths have gone down across the country. It is rising throughout the City and it has the second highest rate of deaths in Staten Island where the first would be the Bronx. Fentanyl is dangerous enough that anyone that tries it for the first time can die of overdose. It's powerful enough that just touching a small gram of it can lead to someone suffering from an overdose of the substance. Fentanyl can go into a brain's opioid receptors and it breaks through the blood/brain barrier more quickly than any other drug there is. It is processed quickly into the body thus making any exposure to it deadly at any moment. Fentanyl is widely talked about on the island for being known how deadly it can be to all the residents. Even those that would take other drugs would be cautious of any potential fentanyl that can be in proximity to the person that is using it. It has resulted in a lot of young adult's deaths that would take other substances without likely realizing they may have taken fentanyl. In high schools across the island they also talk about the dangers of taking fentanyl since it is extremely deadly in small quantities that just being touched alone can cause someone to go unconscious because of overdosing unintentionally. Most pharmacies nowadays have fentanyl kits to prevent a death from overdose in the case that police and EMT's aren't nearby to provide a kit in the event someone is suffering from an overdose at that point. More policing and community events that talk about the dangers of fentanyl should be done

across the communities of Staten Island because it is a problem that isn't slowing at any rate and with how fast it can lead a person to death should be encouraged in more conversations on the dangers of the drug itself. This would create a stronger community view on the dangers of fentanyl that it can discourage potential users from taking anything from it. More policing that is specific to combatting the usage and selling of fentanyl should be enforced as it can prevent more fentanyl being distributed on the island. If both strategies are implemented efficiently it can prevent more deaths among young people and it would stop the distribution throughout the city as a whole. The Fentanyl crisis has to be slowed down or atleast halted enough to prevent more deaths from occurring. If stronger efforts are made to at least stop the distribution of fentanyl throughout the city such as going after the stronger hit communities where fentanyl has caused more deaths. Overall Fentanyl is a problem that has been rising for a long time on Staten Island.

Work Cited

<https://www.statenislandda.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Staten-Island-Fentanyl-Task-Force-Final-Report-and-Reccommendations-for-Action.pdf>