August 18, 2022

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY OBSERVES NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY, AUGUST 21, 2022

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Okeechobee, FL – The Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County (DOH-Okeechobee) observes National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day on August 21, 2022. This national day was established in remembrance of those lost to illicit fentanyl poisoning and to acknowledge the devastation this drug has brought to thousands of affected family members and friends. In 2020, more than 6,150 people died from overdoses involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in Florida. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid up to 100 times more potent than morphine. As little as two grams, about the size of 5 grains of salt, can be fatal.

DOH-Okeechobee is observing National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day by educating residents on the signs of overdose and how to respond to the situation.

Signs of an overdose include:

- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils."

- Falling asleep or losing consciousness.

- Slow, weak, or not breathing.

- Choking or gurgling sounds.

- Limp body.

- Cold and/or clammy skin.

- Discolored skin, especially lips and nails.

If you think someone is overdosing

1. Call 911 Immediately.

2. Administer naloxone, if available.

3. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.

4. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.

5. Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.

Additional resources for opioid use can be found on the Department of Children and Families website. **Substance Abuse and Mental Health - Florida Department of Children and Families (myflfamilies.com)**.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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