



Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York
Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

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**Statement by Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan on Record High
Overdose Deaths due to Fentanyl**

“As the deadly COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, we are learning more about the effects of another serious health crisis over the past year – the opioid epidemic. Tragically, more people died from drug overdose in New York City in the first half of 2020 than ever before, according to new data from the city health department. Fentanyl is driving record overdose deaths and New Yorkers who use drugs are far more likely to encounter fentanyl. Investigations by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and our partners show fentanyl is present in most drugs sold as heroin. It is also mixed with cocaine, methamphetamine and benzodiazepine, and found in counterfeit pills. Health officials caution people who use drugs to take steps to protect themselves. Resources are available at [NYC Well](#). The health department has done an exceptional job of informing the public and offering help and support. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office will continue to work tirelessly to seize lethal drugs before they ever reach the streets.”