

BENZO DOPE

What is Benzo Dope?

- Benzo Dope is a combination of fentanyl and underground benzodiazepines.
- In 2021–2022, Benzo Dope has reportedly entered the drug supply in St. Louis, Kansas City and central Illinois.
- **In the Kansas City area, forms of Benzo Dope are being sold as “purple dope” and appear purple in color.**
- Benzo Dope is most commonly dark purple, blue, or orange, but can be other colors.

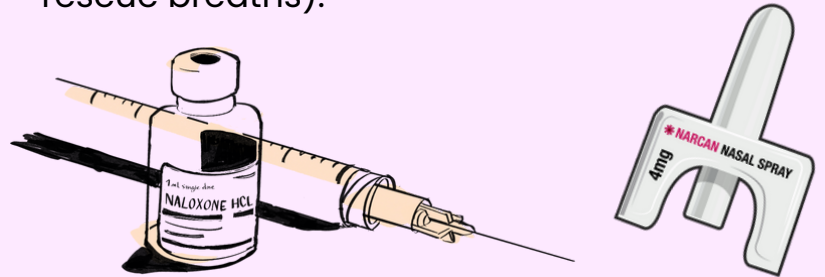


Risks associated with Benzo Dope

- Benzos are nervous system depressants, meaning they may have a sedating effect leading to slow breathing and lower heart rate.
- When combined with fentanyl (or any opioid), Benzos lead to an increased risk of overdose.
- Naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse the effects of Benzos.

Safer use of Benzo Dope

- Tell someone you are using; avoid using alone or behind a locked door.
- Start low and go slow. Do a tester dose before taking the whole dose.
- Ask around before buying or using Benzo Dope (or **“purple dope”**). Ask how it has been making others feel.
- If you think there are Benzos in your dope, let others know so they can know to be careful.
- Carry naloxone -- even though it doesn't reverse ODs from Benzos, it does reverse the opioid part of the OD and should bring breathing back if given quickly (along with rescue breaths).



What to do in a Benzo Dope Overdose

- Administer naloxone. It won't reverse the effects of Benzos, but it will reverse an opioid overdose if that's also going on.
- In the event of a Benzo Dope overdose, naloxone may cause breathing to return but the person may still be sedated and appear unconscious or sleeping.
- Stay with the person, keep them safe, and monitor their breathing.
- If possible, seek medical attention in the event of a Benzo Dope overdose.