



The Chemistry of Recreational Substances

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Abstract

- Fentanyl ($C_{22}H_{28}N_2O$) is a synthetic lipophilic phenylpiperidine Monocarboxylic acid amide. It has analgesic and anesthetic properties. Fentanyl much like morphine, is typically used to treat pain during surgical procedures under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals such as nurses. However, fentanyl is estimated to be 50-100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance, which is why patients being prescribed it should be educated and closely monitored to prevent potential misuse. It was developed in the 1950s as a need to fill an analgesic gap. In the year 2017 approximately 47,600 deaths have resulted from Fentanyl.