40 States Have a Deadly Fentanyl Problem

**What is in these fake pills?**
Fake pills that look like prescription pain killers, anti-anxiety meds and even aspirin have been found. They contain fentanyl or related analogues sourced from illegal labs overseas. A single pill can be fatal.

**Where do they come from?**
Mexican cartels and rogue Chinese manufacturers have made finished pills and smuggled and mailed them into the U.S. Black market Chinese chemical companies also mail raw fentanyl into the U.S. that domestic drug dealers use to make counterfeit prescription medication in illegal labs.

**When did the epidemic start?**
Cartels and dealers first mixed fentanyl into heroin in the 1990s, but the first reports of fake prescription medications made with fentanyl came in 2014.

**The Human Cost of the Epidemic**
On the evening of October 27, 2015, twenty-nine-year-old Aptos, California resident Tosh Ackerman took a Benadryl and part of a Xanax pill to help him sleep. He never woke up, and his girlfriend found him dead the next day. Ackerman died because the Xanax he took was counterfeit. It contained a fatal dose of a powerful synthetic opioid called fentanyl.

*Read Tosh’s story at [http://safemdr.ug/ToshA](http://safemdr.ug/ToshA)*

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Read the full report, “40 States and Counting: The Deadly Combination of Imported Fentanyl and Counterfeit Medicines” at [http://safemdr.ug/40states](http://safemdr.ug/40states)