

Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations in North Dakota (2012–2018)

Based on reported investigations.

Note that each investigation could have affected hundreds of North Dakota residents.

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Made with Fentanyl

- January 2018:** A Grand Forks man received 65 months in jail for his role in a conspiracy that sold counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.¹
- October 2017:** Three members of a Grand Forks fentanyl pill ring pleaded guilty in federal court.²
- October 2017:** Chinese national Jian Zhang and eight other individuals were indicted in Fargo for their alleged roles in a fentanyl distribution ring. Zhang faced multiple charges including Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribute Controlled Substances and Controlled Substance Analogues Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Death.³
- August 2017:** Police in Grand Forks issued a warning to member of the public after four people overdosed on fentanyl in just a matter of a few days.⁴
- May 2017:** The indictment of Aaron Shamo from Utah alleged that his fentanyl drug ring shipped 500 counterfeit pills into North Dakota in November 2016.⁵

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, two in North Dakota, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.⁶
- 2012 and 2013:** The FDA warned two North Dakota doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.⁷

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

- March 2016:** The FDA warned four doctors and clinics in North Dakota and more than 1,200 nationwide to stop buying from Canadian distributor TC Medical, which sold 22 different kinds of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.⁸
- July 2013:** The FDA warned two North Dakota doctors and more than 230 nationwide to stop buying from Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox because may be counterfeit and/or may be drugs from foreign or unknown sources that are not approved for distribution in the United States.⁹

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1. April Baumgarten, "Grand Forks man gets 65 months for dealing fentanyl pills," *Grand Forks Herald*, January 11, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2DL4rsI>.
 2. Andrew Hazzard, "Three plead guilty in Grand Forks fentanyl ring," *Grand Forks Herald*, October 30, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2n4wStY>.
 3. "Chinese National and Eight Others Indicted in North Dakota in 'Operation Denial,'" U.S. Department of Justice Press Release, October 17, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2Dy9nQ9>.
 4. "Grand Forks Police warn of drugs laced with fentanyl after four overdoses," *Valley News Live*, August 30, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2BnnvtF>.
 5. Superseding Indictment, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case No. 2:16-cr-00631-DAK, <http://bit.ly/2mGXekE>.
 6. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs, 2012–2014," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated June 12, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
 7. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...," <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
 8. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated August 17, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
 9. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...," <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.