

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN UTAH

Salt Lake City, August 2019: Man convicted for running a multi-million dollar counterfeit pill ring.

Logan, April 2015: Cancer treatment center pleaded guilty to using non FDA-approved drugs on their patients.

Provo and Orem, May 2010: Two men admitted to smuggling millions of pills into the country from Mexico and selling them to people without valid prescriptions.

THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN AN UPSURGE IN COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION PILLS MASQUERADING AS PAINKILLERS AND XANAX.

These pills are disguised as real medications but made with deadly fentanyl or its even deadlier variants, and even a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes of ingesting it.

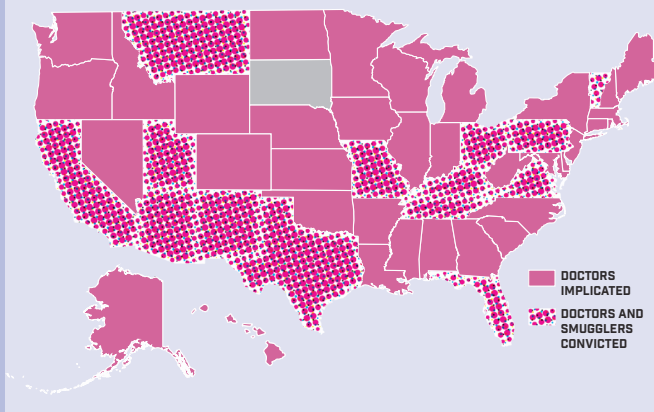
In August 2019, a jury convicted Aaron Shamo of running a massive counterfeit pill ring. His five indicted co-conspirators all pleaded guilty. When Shamo was arrested for selling fentanyl-laced pills disguised as oxycodone and Xanax in 24 states, federal agents seized 95,000 fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills, a pill press and \$1.2 million of cash. But Shamo's organization was not the only contributor to the 78% increase in fentanyl-related deaths between 2015 and 2016. Both before and after their arrests, police officers in Salt Lake, Morgan, and Davis Counties discovered counterfeit pills, pill manufacturing operations, and sadly, victims who died after ingesting those pills.

38 UTAH DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

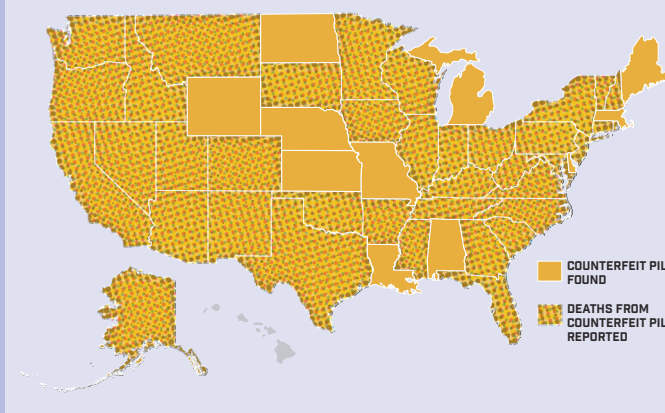
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Utah as well. 38 different medical practices in Utah have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

OPENING THE U.S.'S CLOSED DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PUTS UTAH LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN UTAH (2010–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

NOTE THAT EACH INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE AFFECTED HUNDREDS OF UTAH RESIDENTS.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- October 2019:** Federal prosecutors indicted a Utah man for allegedly buying and distributing tens of thousands of fake fentanyl-laced oxycodone pills and counterfeit alprazolam tablets he purchased from convicted Cottonwood Heights drug trafficker Aaron Shamo. Court documents credit this man for coming up with the idea of counterfeiting oxycodone.¹
- September 2019:** Hooper resident Adam Hemmelgarn received a 128-month federal prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. Counterfeit pills he sold killed 22-year-old Jaydon Rogers of West Haven in March 2018.²
- August 2019:** A jury convicted Aaron Shamo of running a multi-million dollar counterfeit pill drug ring that shipped fentanyl pills to customers across the U.S.³ When federal agents raided two homes in Salt Lake County in November 2016, they found synthetic opioid components, bagfuls of cash, a pill press, and 95,000 fentanyl-laced oxycodone pills and counterfeit Xanax.⁴
- July 2019:** A West Jordan man was indicted for supplying the fake oxycodone pills that killed a Murray woman in November 2016.⁵
- February 2018:** DEA agents arrested four people and searched multiple properties in culmination of a year-long investigation into a counterfeit fentanyl pill ring centered in South Jordan.⁶
- October 2017:** The Utah Department of Health reported that fentanyl-related deaths increased by 78 percent between 2015 and 2016.⁷
- March 2017:** A 17-year-old in Morgan County was revived by EMS and sheriff deputies after he overdosed on half of what he thought was an Adderall pill. He purchased the pill from 19-year-old Parker Lewis Pentz, who allegedly ordered the counterfeits on the internet.⁸
- August 2016:** 29-year-old Devin Meldrum of Provo died of fentanyl poisoning after taking a counterfeit oxycodone pill made with fentanyl.⁹
- June 2016:** Layton police officers reported one overdose death as a result of counterfeit Roxicodone pills circulating in Davis County.¹⁰
- June 2016:** Nathaniel Craigen Jetter was arrested in Sandy, Utah after police found a pill press and other counterfeiting equipment in his hotel room. Jetter, who subsequently pleaded guilty, told police that he was making fentanyl-laced oxycodone pills.¹¹

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned two Utah medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹²
- April 2015:** Dr. Ali Ben-Jacob pleaded guilty to buying non-FDA approved oncology drugs from a CanadaDrugs.com subsidiary and using them on his patients without their knowledge.¹³
- July 2013:** Michael Lawrence O'Donnell of Pleasant Grove pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a year in prison for selling American healthcare professionals imported, non-FDA approved prescription drugs, including Botox, Zometa, Gemzar, and Aranesp.¹⁴
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, seven in Utah, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹⁵
- February–June 2012:** One Utah doctor was among the 136 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Alzuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹⁶

OTHER DRUGS

- November 2019:** Agents with Customs and Border Protection seized a shipment of counterfeit Botox in Cincinnati. The shipment came from China and was destined for private residences in Utah, Texas, and Alabama.¹⁷
- March 2016:** The FDA warned 16 Utah doctors 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.¹⁸
- July 2013:** The FDA warned three doctors and medical practices in Utah to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁹
- November 2012:** Nine Utah doctors were among the 350 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.²⁰
- May 2010:** James A. Brinton, of Provo, and Orem resident Noah Sifuentes pleaded guilty to charges related to selling approximately 8 million phentermine pills over the internet to individuals who lacked valid prescription for the controlled substance. Their products, which also included Ritalin, Xanax, and Valium, were smuggled into the country from Mexico.²¹

FOOTNOTES

1. Dennis Romboy, "Man Who Allegedly Pushed Aaron Shamo to Make Fake Oxycodone Charged," *KSL*, October 8, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2K9QbgZ>.
2. Jennifer Gardiner, "Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Dealing Drug That Killed Roy Man," *ABC4 Utah*, September 18, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2p9pMIS>; Statement by Defendant, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case No. 1:18-cr-00069, <http://bit.ly/2WZ1opR>; Dennis Romboy, "3 Weber County Men Charged in Fentanyl Overdose Death," *Deseret News*, August 20, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2NZU8FT>.
3. Lindsay Whitehurst, "Utah Man Found Guilty of Running Massive Opioid Ring," *KJCT8*, August 30, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2CwCmEZ>.
4. Ben Guarino, "DEA Raids Colossal Fentanyl Operation. Could Produce Thousands of Pills per Hour," *Washington Post*, November 23, 2016, <http://wapo.st/2mTPIZY>; "Drug Trafficking Organization Faces Indictment for Involvement in Manufacturing Fake Prescriptions Drugs with Fentanyl," U.S. Department of Justice, May 31, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DiNvbf>.
5. Dennis Romboy, "Utah Man Allegedly Gave Woman Fentanyl-laced Pills That Killed Her," *KSL*, July 11, 2019, <http://bit.ly/34Pf5KB>.
6. Pat Reavy, "Feds Arrest 4 in Utah-based Pill Pressing Operation," *Deseret News*, February 2, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2B9477b>.
7. Utah Health Status Update: Fentanyl Abuse in Utah and Risks to First Responders, Utah Department of Health, October 2017, <http://bit.ly/2Bes7Ci>.
8. Pat Reavy, "Morgan Deputies Looking at Fentanyl in Overdose Case, Warrant States," *KSL*, April 24, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2EVh82C>.
9. "How a Clean-Cut Eagle Scout Became a Fentanyl Drug Lord," *Newsday*, September 14, 2019, <https://nwsdy.li/32WavJn>, and "Devin Lloyd Meldrum," Obituary, Berg Mortuary, <http://bit.ly/2OjRrPA>.
10. "Counterfeit Prescription Pills Circulating Streets of Davis County, Police Say," *Fox13*, June 14, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2DMFzQK>.
11. Complaint, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case 2:16-cr-00324, <http://bit.ly/2ERnH6E>; Judgment In A Criminal Case, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case 2:16-cr-00324, <http://bit.ly/2mOraU6>.
12. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated July 3, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
13. "Cache Valley Cancer Treatment and Research Clinic Pleads Guilty to Misdemeanor Information Involving Receipt and Delivery of Misbranded Drugs," U.S. Department of Justice, April 7, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2Do8yxn>.
14. "Pleasant Grove Man Sentenced To Prison After Pleading Guilty to Unlicensed Wholesale Distribution of Prescription Drugs," United States Food and Drug Administration, July 31, 2013, <http://bit.ly/2DgtHp6>.
15. "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 July 2, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2rkvr5s>.
16. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvr5s>.
17. "CBP Cincinnati Seizes Counterfeit Botox Shipments," U.S. Customs and Border Protection, November 14, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2CIIbiC>.
18. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...", <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
19. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvr5s>.
20. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvr5s>.
21. "Defendants Plead Guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute Phentermine, Money Laundering in Internet Pharmacy Case Brinton and Sifuentes Admit Selling About Eight Million Phentermine Pills to Customers Without Valid Prescriptions," Federal Bureau of Investigation, May 18, 2010, <http://bit.ly/2DqIPom>.