

The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in New York

Buffalo, September 2017:
Police seized 500 counterfeit oxycodone that contained fentanyl

Elmira, March 2016:
A counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl caused a fatal overdose

New York City, Aug–Sep 2017:
Two police busts kept a total of 32 million fatal doses of fentanyl off the streets

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.

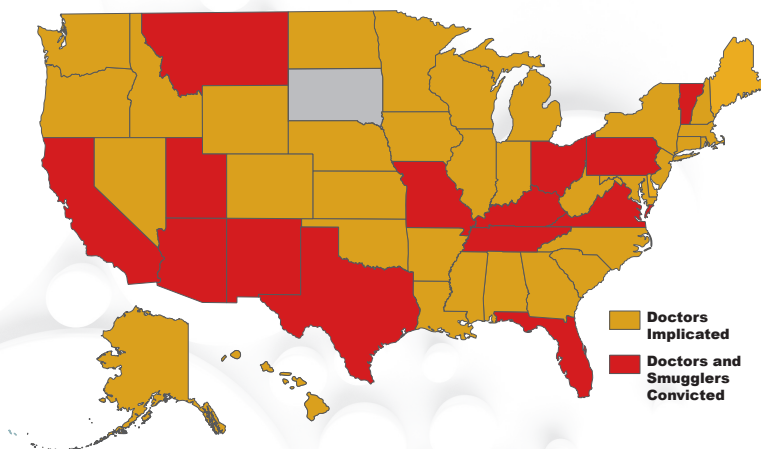
Fentanyl is a serious threat to New York. In June 2017, police arrested a Colorado man at a hotel in the Bronx who was in possession of 18 kilograms of fentanyl. That much fentanyl can make six million fatal doses. In July 2017, police in West Babylon arrested two men as they were making counterfeit pills with fentanyl in the garage of a home across the street from a junior high school.

200 New York Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

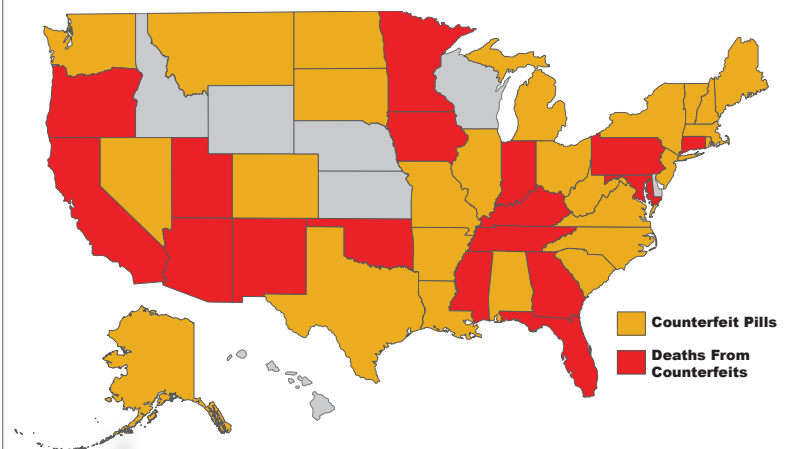
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched New York as well. 200 different medical practices in New York have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones 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 New York lives at risk of serious injury or death.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations in New York (2012–2018)

Based on reported investigations.

Note that each investigation could have affected hundreds of New York residents.

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

- February 2018:** A vehicle search in New York City turned up four kilograms of fentanyl hidden in a cooler of fish fillets and chili.¹
- January 2018:** Federal prosecutors indicted 11 Staten Island residents with alleged ties to the Albanian mafia for operating a heroin and fentanyl ring that distributed drugs in Staten Island, Brooklyn and New Jersey.²
- November 2017:** Six million doses of fentanyl and an assortment of other drugs were seized by police during a search of storage center in the Bronx. Police filed charges against 16 members of this drug ring.³
- October 2017:** Authorities on Long Island announced the seizure of 725 grams of fentanyl shipped from China to a home in Mastic Beach.⁴
- September 2017:** Police intercepted 500 counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl bound for an address in Buffalo.⁵
- August–September 2017:** In August, a police seized over 140 pounds of fentanyl and in September, they seized 53 pounds of fentanyl-laced heroin and another 2 pounds of uncut fentanyl. Police said this was enough to make 32 million fatal doses.⁶
- July 2017:** Police arrested two men in West Babylon while they were making counterfeit pills that contained fentanyl in a garage located across the street from a junior high school.⁷
- June 2017:** Police arrested a Colorado man at a hotel in the Bronx who was in possession of over 18 kilograms of fentanyl, enough to kill at least 6 million people.⁸
- March 2016:** Police in Elmira launched an investigation about the overdose death of an individual who had been distributing counterfeit pills that contained Xanax, oxycodone, and fentanyl.⁹

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to 26 New York doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹⁰
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including 71 doctors offices in New York, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹¹
- February–June 2012:** Seven New York doctors were among the 136 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Altzuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹²

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

- March 2016:** 68 doctors offices and practices in New York were among more than 1,227 doctors nationwide who received warning letters from the FDA to stop buying infusion drugs from TC Medical Group, which sold more than \$33 million worth of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.¹³
- July 2013:** The FDA warned nine doctors and medical practices in New York to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁴
- November 2012:** 19 New York 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.¹⁵

Other Beauty Treatments

- July 2017:** A Harlem mother was rushed to an emergency room after illegal silicone injections left her feeling dizzy and complaining of chest pains. Doctors declared her brain-dead and she was removed from life support two weeks later.¹⁶
- August 2015:** A Bronx woman died after she received illegal silicone injections. The medical examiner said the cause of death was an embolism caused by the cosmetic silicone injections.¹⁷
- March 2014:** A 24-year-old college student from Jamaica Queens died after silicone injections entered her bloodstream, causing embolisms that asphyxiated her.¹⁸

Footnotes

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2. "11 Reputed Mobsters Arrested in Major Fentanyl Ring Bust on Staten Island," *ABC7 New York*, January 17, 2018, <http://7ny.tv/2tvRtNb>.
3. Jim Dolan, "6 Million Doses of Fentanyl Seized in the Bronx, 16 Arrested," *ABC7 New York*, November 20, 2017, <http://7ny.tv/2Fsc4Yw>.
4. "Authorities Seize 'Massive' Amount of Fentanyl from Long Island Home," *ABC7 New York*, October 29, 2017, <http://7ny.tv/2Fy8ms4>.
5. Maki Becker, "'These Blue Pills Are Death': Fentanyl-Laced Drugs Seized in Buffalo," *The Buffalo News*, September 7, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2Fpfs2j>.
6. "Enough Fentanyl to Kill 32M People Seized in Single NYC Bust: Prosecutors," *NBC New York*, September 18, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2Foggbx>.
7. Ryan Bonner, "Duo Produced Fentanyl Pills At Home Across Street From Long Island School: Feds," *West Islip Patch*, July 21, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2ciLLN>.
8. Leonard Greene, "Feds Intercept Largest Ever Fentanyl Haul in New York City as They Bust Colorado Man at Bronx Hotel," *New York Daily News*, August 2, 2017, <http://nydn.us/2FyjOY4>.
9. "Deadly 'Super Pill' Investigation," *WETM 18*, March 31, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2Fyhkch>.
10. "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>.
11. "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>.
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14. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
15. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
16. Andy Mai, Laura Dimon, and John Annese, "Woman Dies Days after Buttock Enhancement—and Her Family Is Calling It Murder," *New York Daily News*, August 1, 2017, <http://nydn.us/2FwPz3J>.
17. Tina Moore, "EXCLUSIVE: Bronx Non-profit Executive's Death by Butt Injection Is Ruled a Homicide, Police Sources Say," *New York Daily News*, October 6, 2015, <http://nydn.us/2lav8YZ>.
18. James C. McKinley, Jr., "Woman Charged in Death Caused by Silicone Injection," *The New York Times*, March 11, 2014, <http://nyti.ms/2FEeYsk>.