


The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Michigan



Argentine Township, February 2018: Police reported finding a counterfeit Xanax that contained fentanyl

Kalamazoo, June 2017: Police seized 35 grams (11,000 fatal doses) of fentanyl

Detroit, February 2017: Man arrested for running a fentanyl lab on city's far west side

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.

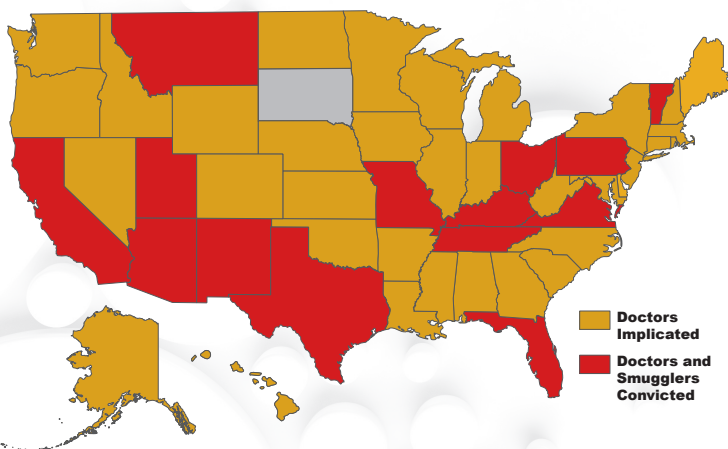
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Michigan. **Since 2017, police have busted labs producing fentanyl twice and have seized fentanyl products in Detroit, Kalamazoo, and Argentine Township.** In June 2017, law enforcement agencies around the state began changing how they conduct routine traffic stops, raids, and seizures due to the danger posed to officers by fentanyl.

77 Michigan Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

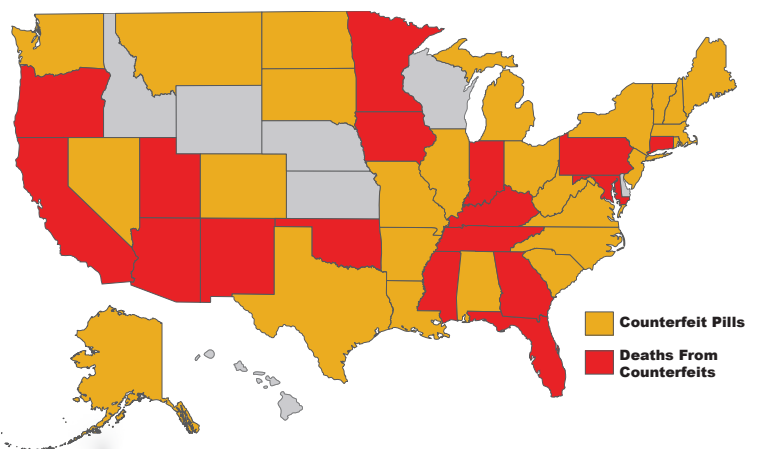
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Michigan as well. 77 different medical practices in Michigan have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones 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 Michigan lives at risk of serious injury or death.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations that Affect Michigan (2012–2018)

Based on reported investigations.

Note that each investigation could have affected hundreds of Michigan residents.

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

February 2018: Argentine Township police reported finding counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl.¹

February 2018: Macomb County's medical examiner announced that 97 percent of drug overdose deaths in 2017 involved an opioid, a more than 400 percent increase from 2014.²

June 2017: State Police and Department of Homeland Security raided a home on Detroit's east side and a laboratory in Royal Oak that authorities say were involved in making fentanyl.³

June 2017: Kalamazoo Police seized 35 grams of fentanyl while searching a home after a citizen's tip.⁴

June 2017: The presence of fentanyl caused law enforcement groups around Michigan to change how they conduct routine stops, raids and seizures.⁵

February 2017: Police warned that the bulk of heroin sold in the mid-Michigan area is cut with fentanyl and that carfentanil has already been discovered in the state.⁶

February 2017: State Police discovered a fentanyl lab operating out of a home on Detroit's far west side.⁷

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

April 2015: The FDA sent warning letters to 12 Michigan doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.⁸

May 2013: The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including 26 doctors offices in Michigan, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.⁹

February–June 2012: Three Michigan 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.¹⁰

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

March 2016: 25 doctors offices and practices in Michigan 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.¹¹

July 2013: The FDA warned five doctors and medical practices in Michigan to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹²

November 2012: Five Michigan 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.¹³

Other Drugs and Medical Devices

August 2015: The CEO of Kentwood Pharmacy received a ten-year sentence for his role in supplying Michigan nursing homes and adult foster care homes with misbranded and recycled drugs. 18 other employees were also charged in the conspiracy.¹⁴

September 2012: One Michigan doctor was among the 23 U.S. doctors that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of the osteoporosis injectable medications Prolia and Aclasta from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs.com subsidiary.¹⁵

Footnotes

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2. Jameson Cook, "Macomb County Drug-Overdose Deaths Hit Record Again, Warren Forum Reveals." *The Macomb Daily News*, February 2, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2pBMBB5>.
3. Shelley Childers, "Michigan State Police, Homeland Security Execute Raid at Lab in Royal Oak," *WXYZ Channel 7*, June 28, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2ua8YTy>.
4. Nicky Zizaza, "Citizen Tip Leads to Large Bust of Fentanyl in Kalamazoo," *WWMT*, June 19, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2GktyWo>.
5. Hasan Dudar, "Street Drugs Change Way Officers in Michigan Make Stops," *Detroit Free Press*, June 4, 2017, <https://on.freep.com/2pBhKxZ>.
6. Susan Field, "Heroin Additives Are Deadly," *Morning Sun News*, February 3, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2ueUUbp>.
7. Shawn Ley, Dave Bartkowiak Jr., and Chuck Jackson "State Police Bust Fentanyl Lab in West Detroit Neighborhood," *ClickOnDetroit*, February 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2G2emcX>.
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 Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs, 2012–2014," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated June 12, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
10. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
11. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
12. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
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14. "CEO Of Kentwood Pharmacy, Kim Duron Mulder, Sentenced To Ten Years In Prison For Health Care Fraud," U.S. Department of Justice, August 27, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2IKfRt8>.
15. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.