

The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Mississippi

November 2017, Madison County: Man died after taking fake oxycodone made with fentanyl

July 2018, Moss Point: Man arrested with enough fentanyl to kill over 400,000

May 2018, Gulfport: Police warned that they had found counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl in the area

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.

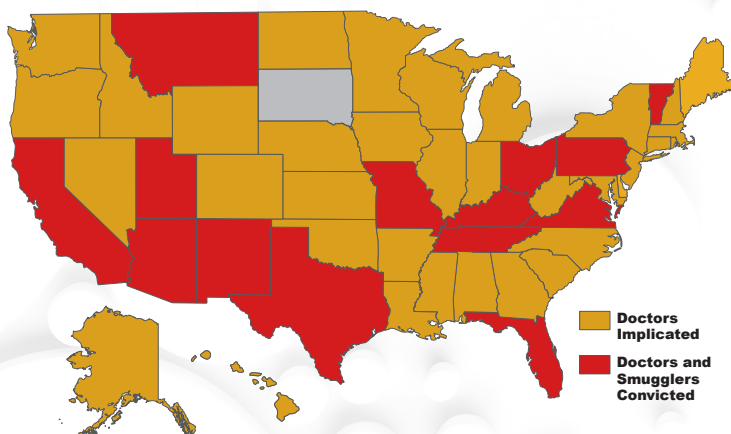
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Mississippi. When police arrested a man in Moss Point in July 2018, he was found in possession of 833 grams of powdered fentanyl and 99 fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills. **A traffic stop in February 2018 in Gulfport led to the seizure of 7,041 grams of fentanyl, enough to make over 2.3 million fatal doses.**

17 Mississippi Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

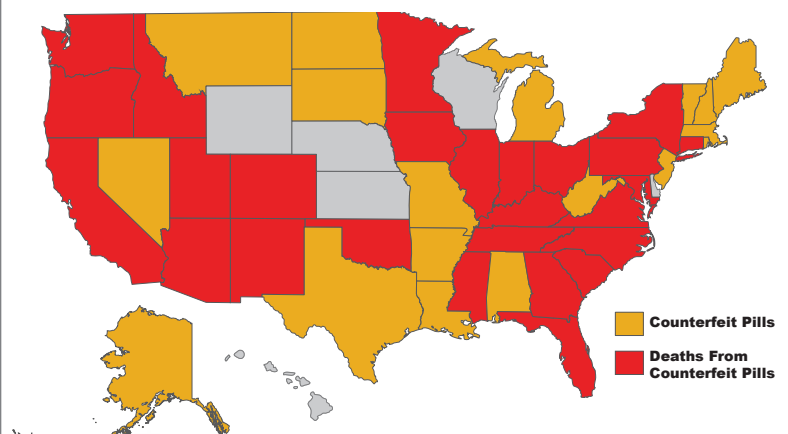
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Mississippi as well. 17 different medical practices in Mississippi have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved 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 Mississippi lives at risk of serious injury or death.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations in Mississippi (2010–2018)

Based on reported investigations.

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

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

- July 2018:** Police arrested a Moss Point man who was in possession of 833 grams of powdered fentanyl and 99 counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl.¹
- May 2018:** Gulfport Police warned the public about counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl being sold in the area.²
- February 2018:** Two pleaded guilty after police in Gulfport discovered 7,041 grams of fentanyl in their truck.³
- November 2017:** A man in Madison County died after taking counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl.⁴
- September 2017:** A Mississippi grand jury indicted a Chinese national for allegedly manufacturing and distributing a variety of illegal drugs, including fentanyl.⁵

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including five doctors' offices in Mississippi, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.⁶
- February–June 2012:** One Mississippi doctor was among the 136 nationwide who received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Altzuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.⁷

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

- March 2016:** The FDA warned nine Mississippi 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.⁸
- July 2013:** The FDA warned one doctor/medical practice in Mississippi to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.⁹
- November 2012:** One Mississippi doctor was among the 350 nationwide who received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹⁰

Other Counterfeit Drugs

- November 2016:** A Utah-based drug counterfeiting operation shipped 100 counterfeit alprazolam pills to a customer in Mississippi.¹¹
- September 2014:** A Mississippi woman received a life sentence after she convinced an Atlanta-area resident to come to Jackson for illegal silicone injections. The victim died eight days after receiving the injections.¹²
- November 2010:** Over a ten-month-long period, undercover agents purchased counterfeit drugs, including fake painkillers, antibiotics, and birth control, from convenience stores across the state.¹³

Footnotes

1. Robin Fitzgerald, "Coast Man Had Enough Fentanyl in His Home to Kill 500,000 People, Agent Says," *Sun Herald*, August 31, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OaoxAc>.
2. "Gulfport Police Warn of 'Bad Batch' of Drugs on the Street," *WLOX*, May 7, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2MIH6zC>.
3. "Illegal Alien and North Carolina Woman Plead Guilty to Fentanyl Possession," U.S. Department of Justice, February 21, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2oYopWH>.
4. Candace Coleman, "Counterfeit Opioids Kill Madison County Man," *WJTV 12*, November 16, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2NAYHs3>.
5. "Chinese Manufacturers Indicted in Deadly Fentanyl Case," U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, October 17, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2NFampM>.
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....," <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....," <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
10. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors....," <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
11. Superseding Indictment, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case No. 2:16-cr-00631-DAK, <http://bit.ly/2mGXekE>.
12. "Miss. Woman Gets Life in Silicone Buttocks Injection Case," *CBS News*, September 2, 2014, <https://cbsn.ws/2ND5G3M>.
13. "State, Feds Crack Down on Fake Drugs," *WLOX*, November 18, 2010, <http://bit.ly/2E7647o>.