

# The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in New Hampshire

**August 2017: State police warned the public about seizures of large quantities of fake fentanyl pills**

**August 2018, Rochester: Man pleaded guilty to selling counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl**

**August 2016, Derry: Police arrested a suspect who attempted to sell 500 grams of fentanyl**

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.

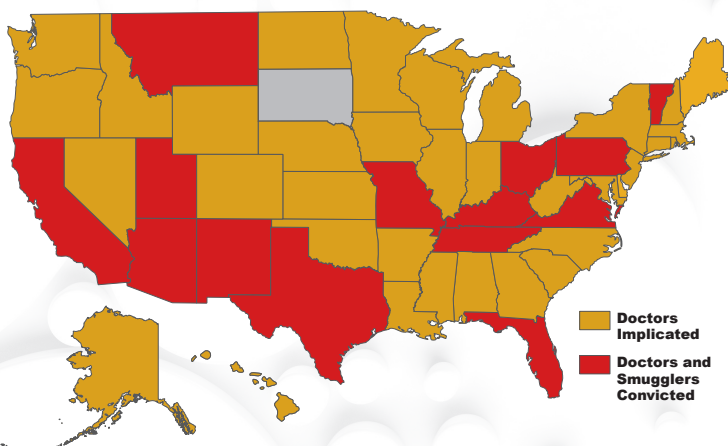
Fentanyl is a serious threat to New Hampshire. A search of an apartment in Manchester in June 2015 led to the seizure of 1.8 kilograms of fentanyl. That much fentanyl can produce at least 600,000 fatal doses. **In April 2018, 15 New Hampshire residents were among 45 indicted as members of a fentanyl trafficking ring.** While executing arrest and search warrants on the various individuals and properties associated with this drug ring, law enforcement seized over 30 kilograms of suspected fentanyl.

## Nine New Hampshire Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

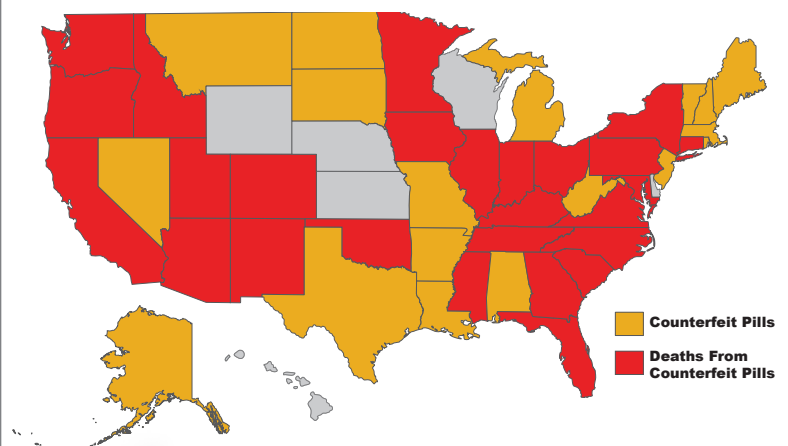
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched New Hampshire as well. Nine different medical practices in New Hampshire have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their 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 Hampshire 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 Hampshire (2013–2018)

**Based on reported investigations.**

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

## Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

- August 2018:** Rochester resident Andrew Lynch pleaded guilty to selling 190 counterfeit fentanyl pills made to look like 30-milligram oxycodone pills to an undercover U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent.<sup>1</sup>
- April 2018:** 15 New Hampshire residents were among 45 indicted for fentanyl trafficking. Law enforcement seized over 30 kilograms of suspected fentanyl while executing arrest and search warrants.<sup>2</sup>
- April 2018:** State officials announced that 483 people died in New Hampshire from drug overdoses in 2017 and fentanyl was a contributing factor in 350 of those deaths.<sup>3</sup>
- August 2017:** Bryan Franklin of Penacook received a ten-year federal prison sentence after he was found with over 750 grams of fentanyl.<sup>4</sup>
- August 2017:** State police issued a public warning after seizing large quantities of counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl.<sup>5</sup>
- February 2017:** A ten-year prison sentence was handed down to Jeannette Hardy of Manchester for drug distribution. Law enforcement seized 1.8 kilograms of fentanyl from her apartment in June 2015.<sup>6</sup> Also charged in this case was Zakee Stuart-Holt. He received a sentence of over 17 years in November 2016.<sup>7</sup>
- August 2016:** Derry man Anthony Barth arrested after he attempted to sell approximately 500 grams of fentanyl to a confidential informant. In January 2018, he received a 14-year prison sentence.<sup>8</sup>

## Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to two New Hampshire doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.<sup>9</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including one doctor's office in New Hampshire, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>10</sup>

## Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

- March 2016:** The FDA warned five New Hampshire 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.<sup>11</sup>
- July 2013:** The FDA warned one medical practice in New Hampshire to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>12</sup>

## Other Counterfeit Drugs and Devices

- April 2018:** A New Ipswich couple received sentences for their roles in distributing millions of misbranded drugs to customers. Pills the couple sold included hydrocodone, Percocet, Valium, Xanax, Adderall, Ritalin, Ativan, Ambien, tramadol, Soma, sildenafil, and tadalafil.<sup>13</sup>
- August 2015:** Safety officials sent out a statewide alert after discovering suspected counterfeit tourniquets being used by emergency responders in North County. One tourniquet broke as it was being used on a motorcycle accident victim.<sup>14</sup>

## Footnotes

1. "Rochester Man Pleads Guilty to Fentanyl and Heroin Trafficking," U.S. Department of Justice, August 31, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OGepzo>.
2. "45 Individuals Indicted for Participating in Fentanyl Trafficking Conspiracy," U.S. Department of Justice, April 25, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2PT6bUV>.
3. Casey McDermott, "Despite Initial Projections, N.H. Overdose Deaths Didn't Decline in 2017," *New Hampshire Public Radio*, April 20, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2NrRLl1>.
4. "Penacook Man Convicted of Drug Trafficking and Firearms Charges Sentenced to 120 Months in Federal Prison," U.S. Department of Justice, August 23, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2pqIxDY>.
5. "New Hampshire Police Warn of Fentanyl Tablets," *Portland Press Herald*, August 11, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2OEPEUx>.
6. "Manchester Woman Sentenced for Heroin and Fentanyl Distribution Conspiracy," U.S. Department of Justice, February 28, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2PUNmRp> and "Three Charged in Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin and Fentanyl," U.S. Department of Justice, October 8, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2PXSg19>.
7. "Manchester Man Sentenced to 210 Months for Heroin and Fentanyl Distribution Conspiracy," U.S. Department of Justice, November 29, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2NspSGf>.
8. "Derry Man Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Fentanyl Trafficking," U.S. Department of Justice, January 29, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2PWJNu3>.
9. "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>.
10. "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/2rkyR5s>.
11. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors..." <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
12. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors..." <http://bit.ly/2rkyR5s>.
13. "New Hampshire Residents Sentenced for Participating in Scheme to Distribute Misbranded Drugs," U.S. Department of Justice, April 6, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2xEF5t6>.
14. "Counterfeit Tourniquets Found in New Hampshire," *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*, August 18, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2pomJcb>.