

The Last Frontier Is Not Safe From Counterfeit Medicine



DANGEROUS FAKE MEDICINE CONTINUES TO BE FOUND IN ALASKA.

Alaska's 2021 started off with counterfeit pills when federal agents seized a **package on its way from Arizona to Utqiagvik**. In April 2020, the Department of Public Safety issued a state-wide alert when **multiple people overdosed on counterfeit oxycodone pills** that contained fentanyl. 2019 was also a bumper crop year, with law enforcement arresting an Anchorage man who had **over two pounds of fentanyl pills**, the death of a woman in Sand Point and, the arrest of two men in southern California who were about to ship **12,000 fake fentanyl pills** into the state.

January 2021, Utqiagvik:
Two residents charged after counterfeit oxycodone pills were seized from a package.



April 2020, Anchorage: A public warning issued after multiple overdoses were reported in one week.



September 2017, Delta Junction: Man indicted for operating a website that sold illegally imported pills to customers around the U.S.

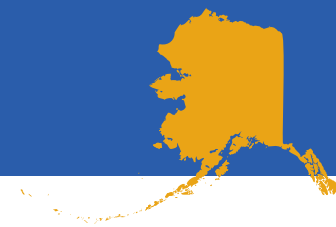


Counterfeit medicine has been found in doctors' offices, too

Doctors' offices and clinics across the U.S. have also been targeted by counterfeiters. While the FDA only sent **five letters to doctors in Alaska** between 2012 and 2016 warning them to stop purchasing cancer medication and Botox from known **black-market wholesalers**, over 3,000 other letters were sent out to practices and clinics in the Lower 48 and Hawaii.

Alaskans deserve safe, genuine and effective medicine. Protect them by supporting and strengthening the closed U.S. drug supply chain.

COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INCIDENTS IN ALASKA, 2012-2021



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL IN ALASKA

- January 2021:** Federal agents arrested two residents of Utqiagvik after postal inspectors in Anchorage flagged a suspicious package that contained counterfeit oxycodone pills that tested positive for fentanyl.¹
- April 2020:** The Alaska Department of Public Safety issued a warning after multiple people suffered from fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit oxycodone pills.²
- September 2019:** Sand Point police arrested four individuals in connection with the death of Raylene Kochuten, who ingested a fake fentanyl pill made to resemble oxycodone. Another Sand Point resident survived fentanyl poisoning as a result of the same pills.³
- April 2019:** Investigators arrested an Anchorage man after he was found with multiple pounds of heroin and over two and one-half pounds of fentanyl pills.⁴
- January 2019:** Police in southern California arrested two drug traffickers, preventing them from shipping a package containing one kilogram each of cocaine and heroin and 12,000 fentanyl pills to an address in Alaska.⁵
- May 2017:** Police in Anchorage confirmed that three people who died in April tested positive for both heroin and fentanyl with another eight overdoses waiting on toxicology reports.⁶
- January 2017:** The state crime lab tested and confirmed the presence of fentanyl in a counterfeit oxycodone.⁷

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- February-June 2012:** One Alaskan doctor was 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.⁸

OTHER MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

- September 2017:** William Kulakevich of Delta Junction was indicted in federal court for operating a website that sold illegally imported etizolam pills to customers across the U.S.⁹ In addition to Kulakevich's guilty plea, a woman who lived in Florida and the Indian man who sold Kulakevich also pleaded guilty.¹⁰
- March 2016:** The FDA warned two Alaskan 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.¹²
- November 2012:** Two Alaskan doctors were among over 350 U.S. medical practices that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹³

FOOTNOTES

1. Wesley Early, "Feds Arrest 2 After Seizing Fentanyl Headed to Utqiagvik," *KTOO*, January 20, 2021, <https://bit.ly/2MAmHNS>.
2. "Authorities Warn of Counterfeit Fentanyl-laced Pills Disguised as Oxycodone in Alaska," *Anchorage Daily News*, April 17, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3djAnEl>.
3. Lex Treinen, "Suspects Arrested After Fatal Overdose in Sand Point," *KTUU-TV*, September 4, 2019, <https://bit.ly/3b6fKtX> and Laura Kraegel, "2 More Charged After Fatal Fentanyl Overdose In Sand Point," *KUCB*, September 17, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2yvFLWf>.
4. Casey Grove, "Anchorage Bust Nets Heroin, Fentanyl Totaling 10-plus Pounds," *Alaska Public Media*, April 18, 2019, <https://bit.ly/3djcEnN>.
5. Dorian Hargrove, "Drug Traffickers Caught During Traffic Stop Blabbed About Operation in Jail Cell," *NBC 7 San Diego*, January 11, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2L4w5ow>.
6. Laurel Andrews "Fentanyl Found in 3 Recent Overdose Deaths in Anchorage," *Anchorage Daily News*, December 2, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DoqGad>.
7. Anna Hillman, "Counterfeit Prescription Drug Found in Alaska Contained Fentanyl," *Alaska Public Media*, January 4, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2mR8VoK>.
8. "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>.
9. "Four Indicted for Roles in Selling Illegal Depressant Etizolam over the Internet," U.S. Department of Justice, September 13, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2MoY46E>.
10. Torsten Ove, "Businessman from India Sentenced for Illegal Drug Importation Will Be Deported," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 9, 2020, <http://bit.ly/3cDVrbN>.
11. "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>.
12. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
13. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.