

# THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN INDIANA

**May 2013: FDA warned 11 Indiana doctors' offices to stop purchasing drugs from an unlicensed wholesaler that had sold counterfeit cancer medication.**

**March 2018, Indianapolis: A 24-year-old mother of three was killed by a fake oxycodone pill made with carfentanil.**

**April 2019, Indianapolis: Police arrested nine on drug charges, seizing counterfeit pills and a pill press.**

## 38 INDIANA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

Counterfeit cancer drugs also threaten Indiana. 38 different medical practices in Indiana have been implicated in 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.

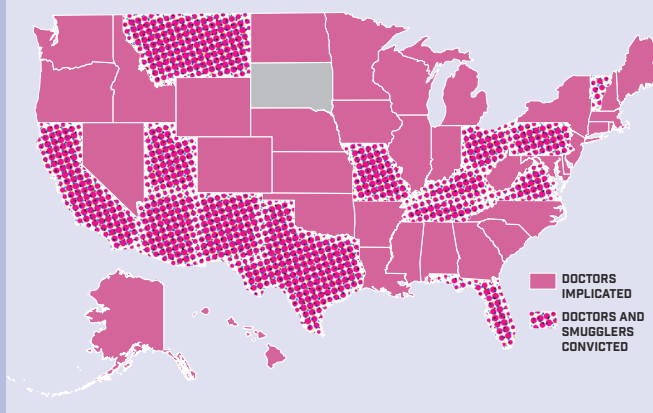
## THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN AN UPSURGE IN COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION PILLS MASQUERADING AS PAINKILLERS AND XANAX.

These pills are disguised as real medications but are 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.

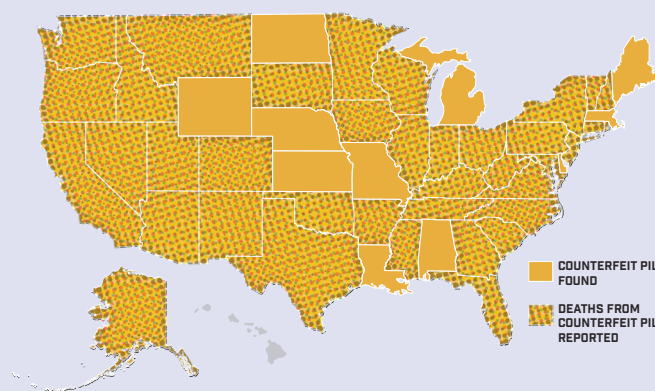
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Indiana. In May 2017, DEA agents seized 970 fake pills made with fentanyl and carfentanil while conducting a raid that arrested five armed men. The following March, Torrie Hardin-Walsh, a 24-year-old mother of three, died after taking a fake oxycodone made with carfentanil. In September 2018, 21-year-old Kyle Kearby died after taking a counterfeit Xanax pill suspected of containing fentanyl.

## OPENING THE U.S.'S CLOSED DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PUTS INDIANA LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**Fake Cancer Drug Crisis**



**Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths**



# COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN INDIANA (2012–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

NOTE THAT EACH INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE AFFECTED HUNDREDS OF INDIANA RESIDENTS.

## FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS CONTAINING FENTANYL

- September 2018:** 21-year-old Kyle Kearby of South Haven died of a suspected fentanyl overdose after taking what family members said was a counterfeit Xanax pill.<sup>1</sup>
- March 2018:** 24-year-old Torrie Hardin-Walsh, a mother of three, died in Indianapolis after taking a fake oxycodone pill made with carfentanil.<sup>2</sup>
- May 2017:** DEA agents in Indianapolis arrested five armed felons and seized approximately 970 pills that looked like oxycodone. Analysis of the pills showed that some contained fentanyl while other pills contained carfentanil.<sup>3</sup>
- April 2016:** Police arrested two individuals for selling counterfeit Xanax that contained fentanyl at a high school in Fort Wayne. Just the previous month, two young men, ages 19 and 20, died from taking similar pills.<sup>4</sup>

## PILL PRESS AND DIES

- April 2019:** The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police seized a pill press and illicit pills during the arrest of nine people on illicit drug charges.<sup>5</sup>

## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned seven Indiana medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.<sup>6</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, 11 in Indiana, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>7</sup>

## MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned 12 Indiana 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>8</sup>
- June 2013:** The FDA warned three Indiana medical practices to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>9</sup>
- November 2012:** Four Indiana 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.<sup>10</sup>

## OTHER DRUGS

- December 2017:** Three EMS workers and a police officer were sent to the hospital after a potential fentanyl exposure after a man allegedly dumped an unknown white powder onto the floor of an ambulance.<sup>11</sup>
- November 2017:** Allen County Sheriff David Gladieux reported that 11 corrections officers had to be treated with Narcan after being exposed to smoke that contained fentanyl.<sup>12</sup>
- September 2012:** One Indiana physician was among the 23 nationwide who received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Prolia and Aclasta from CanadaDrugs-owned subsidiaries.<sup>13</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

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3. "Fake Rx in Indiana: Carfentanil and Fentanyl Found in Purported Oxycodone Pills," *DEA Bulletin*, August 2017, <http://bit.ly/334DBYs>.
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7. "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>.
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