

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA

May 2013: The FDA warned 14 doctors' offices to stop purchasing medicine from an unlicensed Canadian supplier that had sold counterfeit cancer drugs.

December 2018, Creedmoor: Police seized nearly 10,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl.

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.

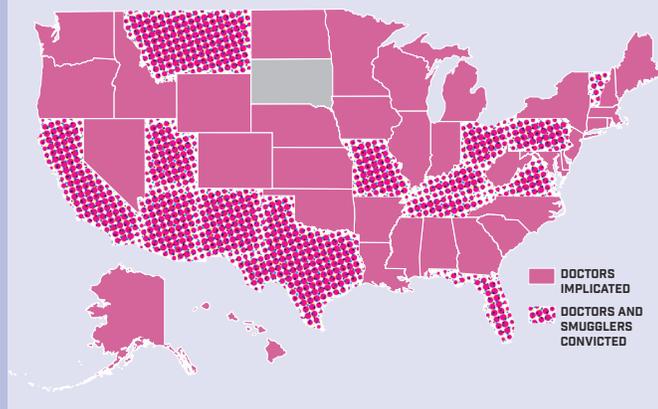
Fentanyl is a serious threat in North Carolina. In April 2017, a 20-year-old Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune died of fentanyl poisoning after ingesting a counterfeit oxycodone pill. Newspapers have reported on similar deaths in Mooresville and Charlotte. Law enforcement arrested three brothers in Raleigh in June 2018 for allegedly supplying high school students with fake Xanax pills made with fentanyl.

51 NORTH CAROLINA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

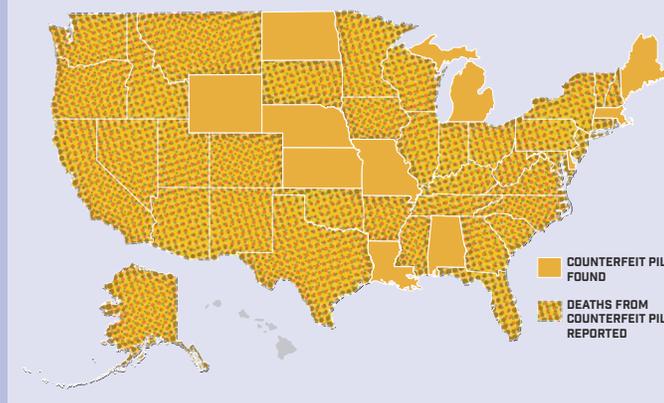
Counterfeit cancer drugs also threaten North Carolina. 51 different medical practices in North Carolina have been implicated in black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA (2012–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

NOTE THAT EACH INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE AFFECTED HUNDREDS OF NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS CONTAINING FENTANYL

- December 2019:** Two former Marines, Anthony Togniotti and Marcos Villegas, received prison sentences of three and ten years for distributing the counterfeit oxycodone pill made with fentanyl that killed Corporal Mark M. Mambulao, another Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, in April 2017.¹
- November 2019:** Justin Kauffman pleaded guilty to selling counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl to Alexandria Leigh McNeely, who was found dead in Mooresville after taking them in December 2017.²
- February 2019:** Deputies with the Union County Sheriff's Office arrested two individuals selling counterfeit Roxicodone pills containing fentanyl.³
- December 2018:** A search of a vehicle during a traffic stop between Charlotte and Creedmore turned up nearly 10,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl. Law enforcement believed the man driving the vehicle was a member of a Greenwood-based drug ring.⁴
- August 2018:** Police in Raleigh arrested a man who was in possession of fentanyl pills and other drugs. The man's arrest warrant reported that officers found more than 3/4 of a pound of fentanyl in his home in October 2017.⁵
- June 2018:** Three brothers in Raleigh allegedly ran a drug ring that manufactured counterfeit Xanax using fentanyl. Holly Spring Police believe the trio were a major supplier to local high school students.⁶
- June 2018:** Deputies arrested a Surry County couple found in possession of 900 suspected counterfeit 30-milligram Roxicodone pills, as well as other drugs.⁷
- October 2017:** Connor Trantham of Charlotte died after ingesting a counterfeit fentanyl pill made to look like a Roxicodone pill.⁸
- May 2017:** Police in Iredell County discovered 5,000 counterfeit OxyContin pills hidden in a paint can with a false bottom during a traffic stop.⁹
- July 2016:** Substance abuse counselors in the Greenville area reported that fentanyl and counterfeit pills made with fentanyl had been affecting people in the area.¹⁰

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to two North Carolina doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹¹
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including 14 doctors' offices in North Carolina, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹²

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned 23 North Carolina 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.¹³
- July 2013:** The FDA warned five doctors and medical practices in North Carolina to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁴
- November 2012:** Six North Carolina doctors were 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.¹⁵

OTHER COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

- April 2018:** The Davidson County Sheriff's Office discovered a counterfeit pill operation in Denton. Hundreds of fake pills had already been made to look like alprazolam, oxycodone, and Adderall.¹⁶
- January 2017:** A teenager from Fayetteville died after having silicone injected into her body for contouring purposes. The woman who performed the illegal procedure was indicted on a second-degree murder charge.¹⁷
- September 2012:** One North Carolina doctor was among the 23 U.S. doctors who 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.¹⁸

FOOTNOTES

1. Kevin Vandenburg, "Two Former Marines Convicted in 2017 Overdose Death," *Jacksonville Daily News*, December 17, 2019, <http://bit.ly/3cycomM>.
2. "Man Sentenced Two Years After Woman Overdosed in Mooresville Parking Lot," *WSOC-TV*, November 19, 2019, <http://bit.ly/39skkCA>.
3. Xavier Walton, "It's So Powerful: Police Issue Warning About Deadly Drug Cocktail Being Sold in the Suburbs," *NBC Charlotte*, February 20, 2019, <http://bit.ly/39n8idK>.
4. Matthew Hensley, "Court Documents Detail Greenwood-linked Drug Operation," *The Index-Journal Co.*, March 1, 2019, <http://bit.ly/39pNySK>.
5. Ron Gallagher, "Fentanyl, Xanax, Pot Cited in Raleigh Drug Arrests," *The News & Observer*, August 9, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OhkFol>.
6. Colleen Quigley, "Warrants: Triplets Ran Illegal Drug Enterprise out of Luxury Raleigh Apartments," *CBS 17*, June 28, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OewPam>.
7. Jeff Linville, "Record Drug Bust in Red Brush," *The Mount Airy News*, June 9, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OeumN8>.
8. Laura Eberhard, "Charlotte Mom Opens Up About Son's Opioid Overdose," *BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina*, November 27, 2018, <http://bit.ly/32QQxb6>.
9. Allison Latos, "Fentanyl Disguised as OxyContin in Iredell County Drug Bust," *WSOC TV*, May 23, 2017, <https://on.wsocv.com/2Muok9s>.
10. Kelly Byrne, "Counterfeit Pills Laced With Fentanyl Contribute to Opioid Epidemic," *WNCT*, July 25, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2NErCvw>.
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 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>.
13. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
14. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
15. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
16. Sharon Myers, "Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security Bust Counterfeit Drug Operation," *The Dispatch*, April 12, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2p4EP2T>.
17. Mark Price, "NC Teen Dreamed of Transitioning to Female. Now a Fake Doctor Is Charged with Murder," *The Charlotte Observer*, March 20, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2xXW8tZ>.
18. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.

