

# THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN OREGON

**Medford, August 2019:** Police seized 60,000–80,000 fentanyl-laced fake oxycodone pills they found in a van they stopped on Interstate-5.

**Troutdale, June 2018:** A doctor who injected patients with illegally imported Botox and Juvéderm pleaded guilty and surrendered her medical license.

**2012-2013:** The FDA warned 14 Oregon doctors to stop buying from Canadian sources that had sold counterfeit cancer medicine.

## 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.

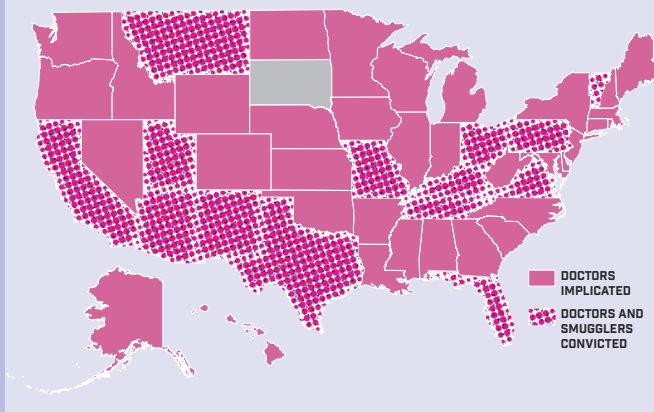
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Oregon. Authorities have seized tens of thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl since August 2016. At least two men have died after taking them and at least four residents have been sentenced for trafficking fentanyl both in and out of the state.

## 39 OREGON DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

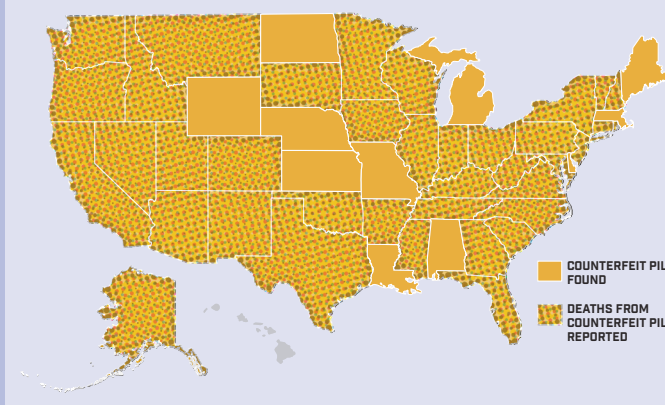
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Oregon as well. 39 different medical practices in Oregon have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

### Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



### Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



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



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

## FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- November 2019:** Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement seized 60,000-80,000 fentanyl-laced fake oxycodone pills they found in a hidden compartment in a van they stopped on Interstate-5.<sup>1</sup>
- July 2019:** Johnell Cleveland of Happy Valley received a five-year prison sentence. Police found hundreds of fake, fentanyl-laced oxycodone pills during a March 2018 search of his home, a storage unit in Clackamas, and a stash house in Washington.<sup>2</sup>
- January 2019:** Jared Gillespie of Beaverton received an eight-year sentence for distributing 86,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl that he had purchased online.<sup>3</sup>
- November 2018:** The Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police arrested three people after searching a home in Dallas where they found counterfeit pills that contained fentanyl, among other drugs.<sup>4</sup>
- January 2018:** Oregon State Police discontinued drug testing during traffic stops because of the risk of fentanyl exposure.<sup>5</sup>
- November 2017:** Federal authorities arrested John William Schantz after a search of his Portland home yielded 800 pills of counterfeit oxycodone and Valium pills, two pill presses, multiple dye casts, and other pill manufacturing paraphernalia.<sup>6</sup> Schantz was sentenced to 100 months in prison on September 18, 2019.<sup>7</sup>
- October 2017:** Portland police circulated photographs of fake tablets that contained combinations of fentanyl, heroin, tramadol, and alprazolam, which they found in the Portland area.<sup>8</sup>
- June 2017:** Salem Police warned that hundreds of fentanyl pills falsely marked as oxycodone pills were circulating in the area.<sup>9</sup>
- January 2017:** Taylor Martinek of Portland died of fentanyl poisoning after taking a fentanyl-laced pill that he believed was an oxycodone.<sup>10</sup>
- August 2016:** A 24-year-old Portland resident died after taking counterfeit OxyContin authorities believed was laced with fentanyl. Police seized approximately 2,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills in the course of the investigation.<sup>11</sup>
- July 2016:** "Operation Denial" defendant Brandon Corde Hubbard of Portland, received a life sentence and agreed to pay \$17,000 in restitution for importing and distributing fentanyl that led to the death of two North Dakota teenagers and four overdoses (one fatal) at the Multnomah County Jail in March 2015.<sup>12</sup> "Operation Denial" has led to the indictment of 32 people in three countries since 2015.<sup>13</sup>

## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned 271 medical practices, three in Oregon, to stop buying medicine from unlicensed drug distributor Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.<sup>14</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, five in Oregon, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>15</sup>
- 2012–2013:** The FDA warned more than 500 medical practices across the country—14 in Oregon—to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.<sup>16</sup>

## OTHER DRUGS

- February 2019:** Salem resident Matthew Burroughs pleaded guilty to introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce for selling a pharmaceutical-grade erectile dysfunction drugs that were falsely marketed as herbal remedies for men.<sup>17</sup>

- June 2018:** Dr. Brenda Roberts of Troutdale surrendered her medical license and pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for injecting patients with illegally imported Botox and Juvéderm. The DEA also found that Roberts operated a rogue pharmacy that distributed controlled substances to customers across the U.S.<sup>18</sup> She received a sentence of six months probation and 40 hours of community service in October 2018.<sup>19</sup>
- March 2017:** Christopher Stella of Keizer was sentenced to eight months of home detention, to five years of probation, and to pay \$91,071.68 in restitution for selling counterfeit erectile-dysfunction drugs on Craigslist between March 2013 and January 2016.<sup>20</sup>
- March 2016:** The FDA warned 12 Oregon 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>21</sup>
- July 2013:** The FDA warned five medical practices in Oregon to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>22</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

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