



# Fake Drugs are a Real Threat in Indiana


## THE STATE'S COUNTERFEIT PILL PROBLEM GREW IN 2020.



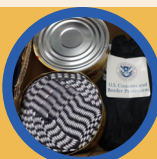
Law enforcement seized fake fentanyl pills in **Fort Wayne** and stopped a fake oxycodone operation in a home in **Dearborn County**. Two young men, one in **Fort Wayne** and another in **New Haven**, died after taking counterfeit pills. In 2019, federal courts indicted ten people who allegedly acquired fentanyl pills in Arizona and sold them in the **Evansville** area. Since 2016, the media has reported drug operations and additional deaths in **Fort Wayne**, **South Haven** and **Indianapolis**.



**March 2019, Evansville:** Federal authorities broke up a multi-state fentanyl pill distribution ring.



**May 2020, New Haven:** A 20-year-old man died after taking a counterfeit Percocet pill made with fentanyl.



**July 2020, Indianapolis:** CBP seized six parcels of a sedative smuggled from the UK in coffee tins.

## THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER COUNTERFEITS, TOO.

In 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Indianapolis confiscated six packages of a **non-FDA approved sedative called Zolpidem hidden in coffee cans** and authorities in Anderson charged a shopkeeper who allegedly sold **fake Viagra**.



Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned 38 Indiana doctors' offices to stop buying products from unlicensed distributors that had been caught selling **counterfeit Botox, Avastin and osteoporosis treatments**. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or whether they died from a lack of treatment.



Hoosiers should not have to worry about whether their medicine is safe, genuine or effective. Protect them by supporting and strengthening the closed U.S. drug supply chain.

# COUNTERFEIT & BLACKMARKET DRUG INCIDENTS IN INDIANA, 2010-2020



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

## COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- October 2020:** Police in Dearborn County arrested a Harrison man and an Aurora woman for making and selling counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl and tramadol. They also seized a commercial pill press, a homemade wooden pill press and 84 grams of drugs.<sup>1</sup>
- May 2020:** Christopher Juillerat, a 23-year-old father in Fort Wayne, died after taking a counterfeit pill made with fentanyl.<sup>2</sup>
- May 2020:** A former New Haven High School football star named Jonyvan Johnson died of fentanyl poisoning after taking what turned out to be a counterfeit Percocet.<sup>3</sup>
- May 2020:** Fort Wayne Police issued a warning about counterfeit Percocet made with fentanyl after several unintended poisonings and deaths.<sup>4</sup>
- March 2019:** Eight Indiana residents were among the ten indicted as part of a large fentanyl pill distribution ring centered on Evansville.<sup>5</sup>
- September 2018:** 21-year-old Kyle Kearby of South Haven died of suspected fentanyl poisoning after taking what family members said was a counterfeit Xanax pill.<sup>6</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>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</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>11</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>12</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>13</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>14</sup>

## COUNTERFEIT AND MISBRANDED MEDICATION

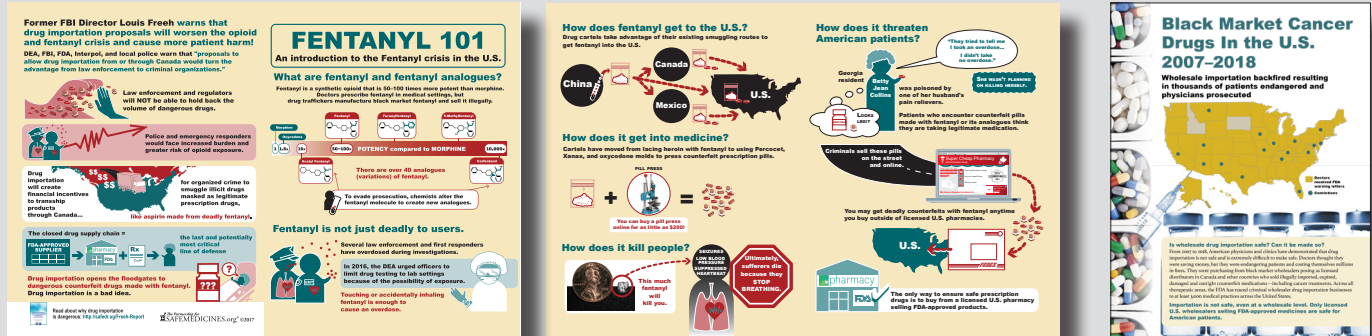
- July 2020:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection offices seized an illegally-imported shipment of the sedative Zolpidem at an Indianapolis express consignment facility. The misbranded pills were shipped from the United Kingdom hidden in coffee tins.<sup>15</sup>
- March 2020:** An Anderson shop owner was accused of ordering bulk, counterfeit Viagra online and selling it to customers at his store.<sup>16</sup>
- April 2019:** The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police seized a pill press and illicit pills during the arrest of nine people on drug charges.<sup>17</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>18</sup>

## Footnotes

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6. Giles Bruce, "Investigation Ongoing in Overdose Death of South Haven Man Shown in Mocking Video," *Northwest Indiana Times*, September 11, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2xewM14>.
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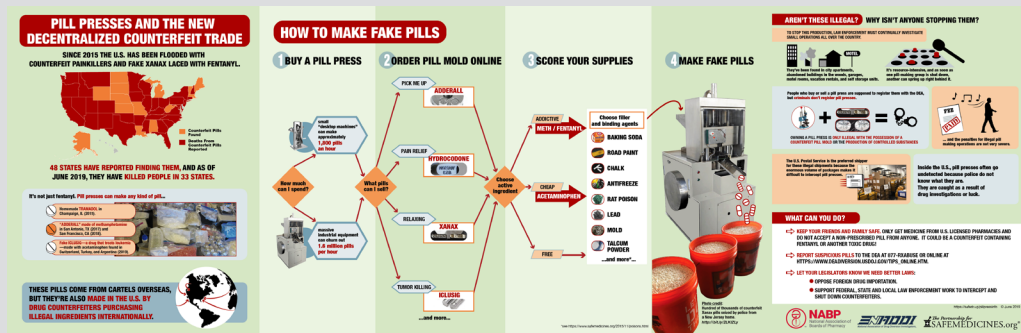
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