Fake, fentanyl-laced pills have left a trail of bodies

A father-to-be in Georgia dropped dead after taking a painkiller for a pulled muscle in February 2015.1 Eight months later, a Californian took a Xanax when he couldn't sleep, and never woke up.2 Deaths like these have been reported in 33 states.

Risks for first responders

Tiny quantities of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, which can be ingested orally, inhaled or injected, can cause illness, respiratory depression, or death.3 Officers, EMTs, nurses, and even working dogs have been treated for fentanyl exposure.4

Where do these pills come from?

Criminals bring cheap Chinese fentanyl across U.S. borders, but the drug also comes via the mail. A first-class envelope can conceal enough powdered fentanyl that a person with an inexpensive pill press can make over 120,000 deadly fake pills.5

How do we stop it?

Educate Americans about the existence of dangerous counterfeits and oppose efforts to weaken the closed, secure drug supply through importation.

Only purchase medicine from licensed U.S. pharmacies selling FDA-approved products.
Contact editors@safemedicines.org to obtain materials about counterfeit drug investigations in your state.

Footnotes


