

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN ALABAMA

May 2013: FDA warned 13 doctors' offices to stop purchasing from an unlicensed wholesaler that had sold counterfeit cancer medication.

March 2016, Tuscaloosa: Police found counterfeit Xanax made with a more powerful benzodiazepine.

March 2017, Madison: Police arrested a man after he was found with three different kinds of counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, methamphetamine and alprazolam.

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.

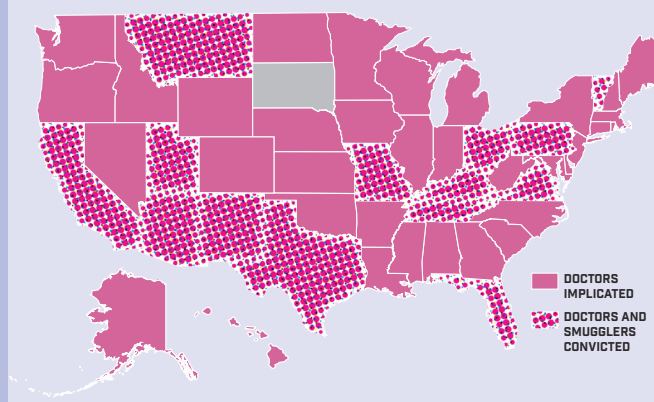
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Alabama. In January 2018, authorities in Shelby County seized 36,000 doses of fentanyl. Three months later, the leader of a Birmingham drug ring, who was found in possession of 17,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, received an almost 21-year prison sentence. He was one of nine defendants to be sentenced in this case.

43 ALABAMA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

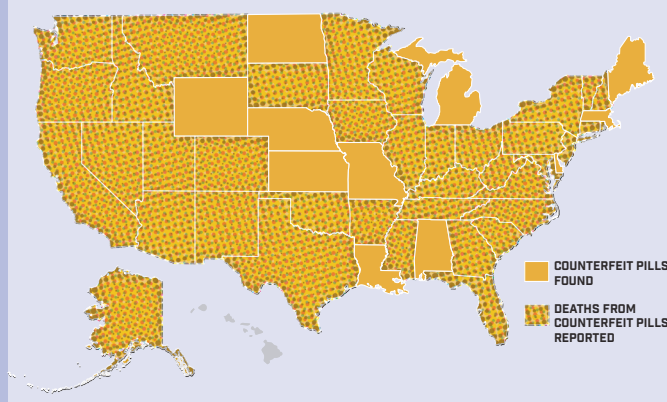
Counterfeit cancer drugs also threaten Alabama. 43 different medical practices in Alabama have been implicated in black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN ALABAMA (2010–2020)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- August 2019:** Police arrested an Albertville man after a search of his home turned up pills that tested positive for fentanyl and methamphetamine.¹
- July 2019:** The Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force issued a warning about teenagers purchasing items such as Adderall or Xanax online that turn out to be counterfeits made with fentanyl.²
- August 2018:** Joseph William Davis of Madison pleaded guilty in federal court after law enforcement found him in possession of 611 “round blue pills” that tested positive for fentanyl, 207 pills that tested positive for methamphetamine, and over 10,000 alprazolam pills.³ He was sentenced to more than ten years in December 2018.⁴
- April 2018:** Chelsea resident Anthony Levy Ward received a prison sentence of almost 21 years for drug trafficking. Ward was found in possession of 17,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl.⁵ Ward was one of nine defendants, five of whom were from Birmingham, sentenced in this case. The final defendant was sentenced in May.⁶
- January 2018:** The Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force seized 36,000 fatal doses of fentanyl allegedly ordered by Alabaster resident David Wallace and his associate, Dana Marie Leslie, of Pelham, over the Internet.⁷
- July 2017:** Pelham police seized 7,000 fatal doses of fentanyl during a drug bust.⁸
- June 2017:** Russell County deputies arrested Charles Dunn for possession of yellow fentanyl pills disguised as Percocet.⁹
- June 2016:** Deputies from the Limestone County Sheriff’s Office arrested Joshua Leon Molt during a traffic stop after he was found in possession of 78 counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl.¹⁰

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to five Alabama 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 13 doctors offices in Alabama, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹²
- February–June 2012:** Two Alabama doctors were among the 136 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Alizumab from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹³

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** 21 doctors offices and practices in Alabama were among more than 1,227 doctors nationwide who received warning letters from the FDA to stop buying infusion drugs from TC Medical Group, which sold more than \$33 million worth of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.¹⁴
- July 2013:** The FDA warned one doctor in Alabama to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁵
- November 2012:** One Alabama doctor was 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.¹⁶

OTHER DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES

- March 2020:** Mulberry Medical Associates, P.C. in Montgomery agreed to pay \$425,000 to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by purchasing unlicensed and foreign-made pharmaceutical products to treat patients with osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.¹⁷
- November 2017:** Three defendants pleaded guilty in the case against “Future Pharma,” an online pharmacy that used locations in Alabama and Florida to make counterfeit Viagra, Cialis, Accutane, Clomid, and other drugs from ingredients sourced in China.¹⁸
- March 2016:** Police in Tuscaloosa reported finding counterfeit Xanax pills made with etizolam, a different benzodiazepine.¹⁹
- January 2010:** Selma native Marilyn Hale died after Tracey Lynn Garner Garner injected her with liquid silicone contouring purposes. Garner was charged in Hale’s death in June 2013, and received a life sentence for the death of an Atlanta woman in September 2014.²⁰

FOOTNOTES

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7. “Multi-agency Operation Results in Seizure of 36,000 Fatal Doses of Fentanyl in Shelby County,” Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force Facebook post, January 23, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2P2wQhP>.
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