

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN ARKANSAS

2012–2013: FDA warned five Arkansas doctors to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold U.S. medical practices counterfeit Avastin.

Fayetteville, March 2019: Lewis R. Chafin received a five-year sentence for manufacturing counterfeit oxycodone 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.

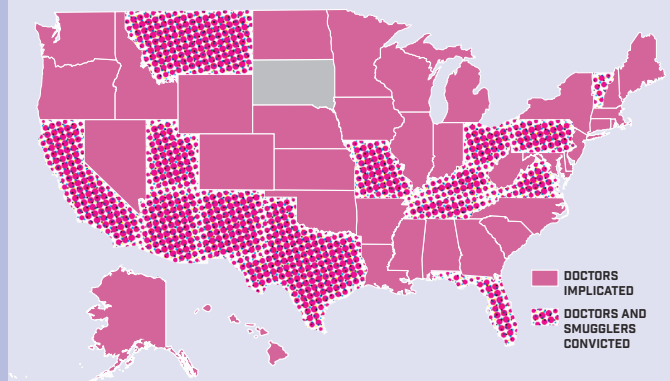
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Arkansas. Since Arkansas's crime laboratory identified 56 samples of fentanyl in both powder and counterfeit pill form in early 2017, authorities have seized fentanyl in Little Rock and Pope County and shut down a counterfeit pill making operation in Fort Smith. In April 2018, police arrested a Fayetteville resident who was manufacturing fake oxycodone made with fentanyl in his home. The following February, 34-year-old C.J. Kordsmeier died after taking a fentanyl-laced pill he purchased on the Internet.

17 ARKANSAS DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

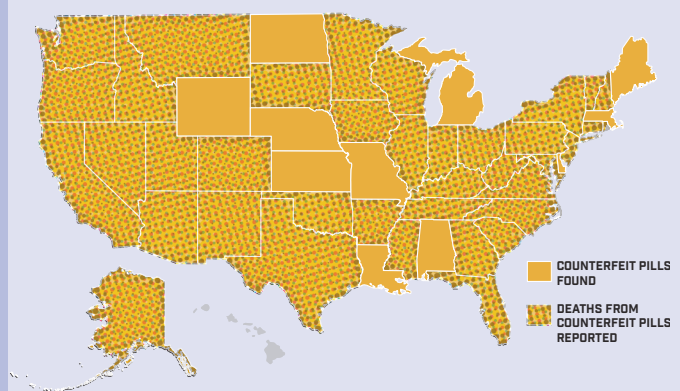
Counterfeit cancer drugs also threaten Arkansas. 17 different medical practices in Arkansas have been implicated in black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN ARKANSAS (2011–2020)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS CONTAINING FENTANYL

- January 2020:** A traffic stop in Morrilton led to the seizure of 100 oxycodone pills “coated in fentanyl.”¹¹
- October 2019:** Law enforcement in Arkansas completed dismantling a third drug trafficking ring as part of an investigation that began in June 2018. Forty-nine individuals were indicted, and police seized 1,600 grams of fentanyl and 5,000 fentanyl pills.²
- April 2019:** Police in Fort Smith arrested two individuals, seizing a pill press and powder that tested positive for fentanyl while executing a search. The pill press was fitted with a dye to make oxycodone pills.³
- March 2019:** Fayetteville resident Lewis R. Chafin received a five-year federal prison sentence⁴ for manufacturing counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl in his home. Chaffin was originally charged in April 2018.⁵
- February 2019:** 34-year-old Conway resident C.J. Kordsmeier died after taking counterfeit oxycodone pills mailed to him by a couple in Arizona. Testing confirmed that the pills the couple had sold were made with fentanyl.⁶
- February 2018:** Police in Little Rock reported three to five fentanyl-related overdoses over less than a two-month period.⁷
- October 2017:** State police seized fifteen pounds of fentanyl during a traffic stop on Interstate 40 in Pope County.⁸
- August 2017:** CDC reports showed that Arkansas had the second highest opioid prescription rate in the country—enough prescriptions were written for every Arkansas resident to have a bottle.⁹
- May 2017:** Authorities indicted 61 people, 50 of whom were from Little Rock, for their roles in drug rings that distributed methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine. Officers seized half a pound of fentanyl, as well as other drugs, over the course of the 18-month investigation.¹⁰
- January–March 2017:** Arkansas’s crime laboratory identified 56 samples of fentanyl in powder and counterfeit pill form.¹¹

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned 271 medical practices, two in Arkansas, to stop buying medicine from unlicensed drug distributor Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹²
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, three in Arkansas, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹³

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned three Arkansas 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.¹⁴
- July 2013:** The FDA warned four medical practices in Arkansas to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁵
- November 2012:** The FDA warned more than 500 medical practices across the country—five in Arkansas—to stop buying Botox from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.¹⁶

OTHER COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

May 2014: Charles and Brenda Edwards, who co-owned Houston-based Cumberland Distribution pleaded guilty to selling \$50 million in secondhand HIV/AIDS, antipsychotic, antidepressants, acid reflux, blood pressure and diabetes treatments to American pharmacies. Tristate Management Group, a company in Texarkana, helped conceal the source of the drugs, which were often damaged or expired.¹⁷

September 2011: Dr. Kelly Dean Shrum of Pine Bluff was sentenced to five years probation with 200 hours of community service per year, and to pay approximately \$279,000 in restitution and forfeitures for implanting illegally imported IUDs in his patients without their consent and falsely billing Medicaid for them.¹⁸

FOOTNOTES

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16. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...", <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
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