

Delaware has seen a sharp increase in counterfeit pills

In September 2020, the Drug Enforcement Administration reported that Pennsylvania and Delaware were experiencing a sharp rise in the incidence of counterfeit prescription pills. Delaware news mirrors the DEA's data: Since May 2020, the state has seen **fantanyl pill seizures in Dover and Claymont, the bust of a pill press operation in Wilmington, and the sentencing of two men caught trafficking fantanyl pills** in August 2019. In addition, a bereaved mother submitted a letter to *Bay to Bay News* in May 2021 acknowledging that her **23-year-old son had died in Dover after taking a fake Percocet** in 2020. It was the first counterfeit pill death to surface in public sources in Delaware.

Few fake pills were reported in Delaware before August 2019, but the effects of fantanyl were clear: the number of fantanyl-related deaths in Delaware tripled in 2016, and has continued to climb every year since.



Fake medicine has also made its way into medical practices in Delaware

Between 2012 and 2016, the FDA sent 11 Delaware physicians letters warning them to stop doing business with black market drug distributors that had sold counterfeit Botox and cancer drugs that contained no active ingredients.

Delaware residents deserve safe and effective medicine. Protect them by protecting the U.S. secure drug supply chain.



June 2021, Wilmington: A Claymont man got ten years in prison after DEA agents found 4,000 fake oxycodone pills made with fantanyl in his dishwasher.



May 2020, Dover: A 23-year-old died of fantanyl poisoning after taking a fake Percocet.



September 2019: The AG dissolved four Delaware companies that allegedly laundered money for prescription drug smugglers.

COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN DELAWARE, 2012-2021



FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- June 2021:** Charles Crest of Claymont received a more than ten-year prison sentence for possession and intent to distribute fake oxycodone pills made with fentanyl. Law enforcement found 4,000 of the pills hidden in Crest's dishwasher after he sold over 1,000 of them to a DEA agent in May 2020.¹
- September 2020:** The Drug Enforcement Administration published a report warning that the incidence of counterfeit pills that contained fentanyl had risen sharply in Pennsylvania and Delaware since 2016.²
- June 2020:** The Dover Police Department arrested a man on firearms and drug charges after a search of his vehicle led to the discovery of a handgun, ecstasy, fentanyl pills, and \$1,500 in cash.³
- May 2020:** Newport police arrested a Wilmington man after they found firearms, suspected fentanyl and a commercial pill press during warranted searches of properties in Bear, Wilmington and New Castle.⁴
- May 2020:** A 23-year-old Dover resident died of fentanyl poisoning after taking a counterfeit Percocet.⁵
- September 2019:** Health officials reported that six deaths in Sussex and New Castle counties over the Labor Day weekend might be the result of counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl.⁶
- August 2019:** Police arrested New Jersey resident Ricardo Perez-Guillen for selling heroin and 600 fake pills that contained fentanyl in New Castle. Investigators found another 13,000 fentanyl pills in the home Perez-Guillen shared with co-conspirator Julian Rivera-Villa. Perez-Guillen and Rivera-Villa received seven- and ten-year prison sentences, respectively, for drug trafficking in 2021.⁷
- July 2017:** Officials linked six deaths in New Castle and Sussex Counties over a three-week period to two brands of heroin suspected of containing fentanyl.⁸
- May 2017:** Police arrested 18 individuals who were part of a drug ring distributing fentanyl and other drugs in Maryland and Delaware.⁹
- March 2017:** New Castle County police launched an investigation after four residents died of heroin overdoses that suggested fentanyl poisoning in just five hours.¹⁰
- February 2017:** State officials reported 308 drug deaths in Delaware in 2016, with one-third of them involving fentanyl. The number of deaths involving fentanyl in the state tripled in just one year.¹¹
- February 2016:** Law enforcement in New Castle County arrested five men with 48,800 \$10 bags of powder that laboratory tests identified as fentanyl. The stamps on the bags linked the drugs to two overdoses in the area.¹²

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, four in Delaware, 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 four Delaware 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
- February–June 2012:** The FDA warned 139 medical practices, three in Delaware, to stop buying Botox from Richards Pharma, Clinical Care, Quality Specialty Products (QSP), Montana Healthcare Solutions, or Bridgewater Medical. These companies, which were subsidiaries of CanadaDrugs.com, sold counterfeit cancer medication to American medical practices.¹⁵

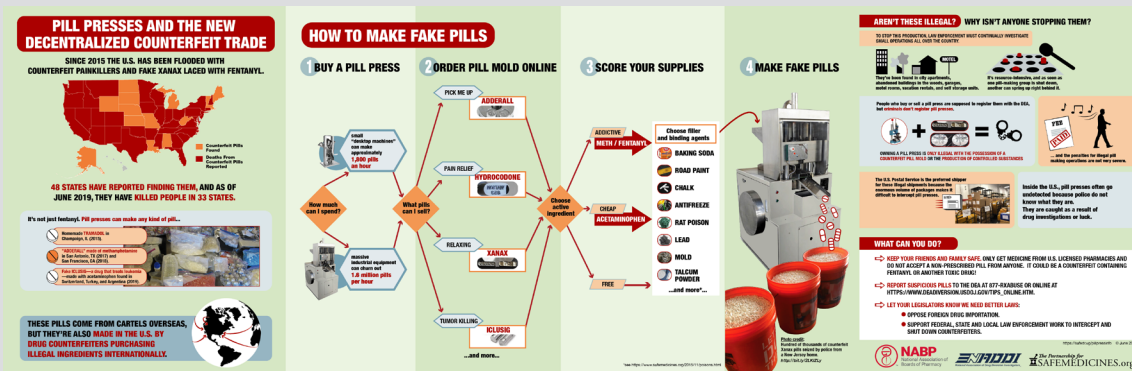
OTHER DRUGS

- September 2019:** Attorney General Kathy Jennings filed actions to dissolve four Delaware LLCs which had allegedly laundered money for Goldpharma, a company that illicitly imported tramadol, alprazolam, carisoprodol, diazepam, codeine and tapentadol into the U.S.¹⁶

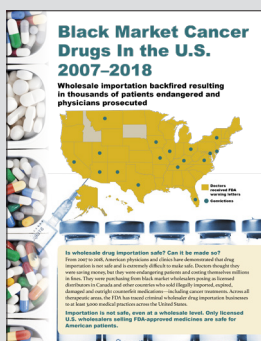
Footnotes

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