

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge, July 2019: Leader of a local drug trafficking organization pleaded guilty to making and selling fake prescription drugs.

Shreveport, August 2018: CBP agents seized over 9,500 pounds of counterfeit pills and cosmetic injectables in seven months.

May 2013: Twelve doctors in the state received warning letters from the FDA about purchasing from an unlicensed wholesaler that sold fake cancer medication.

53 LOUISIANA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Louisiana as well. 53 different medical practices in Louisiana have been implicated in various 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.

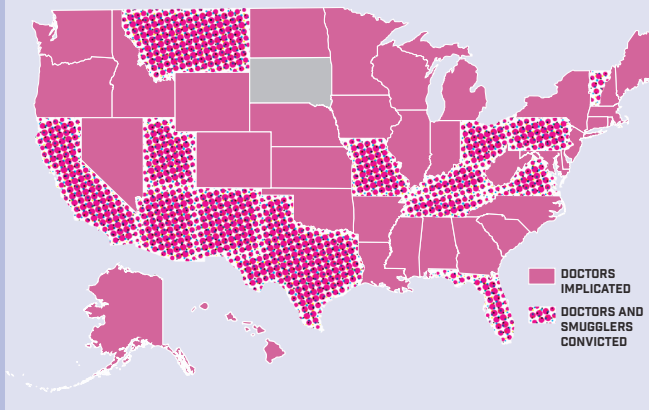
OPENING THE U.S.'S CLOSED DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PUTS LOUISIANA LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN AN UPSURGE IN COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION PILLS MASQUERADING AS PAINKILLERS AND XANAX.

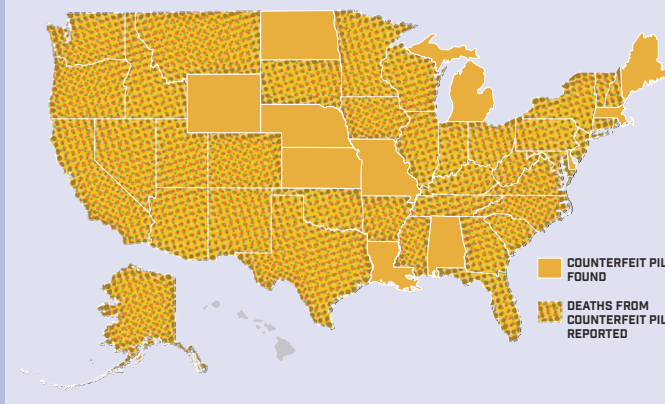
These pills are disguised as real medications but made with deadly fentanyl or its even deadlier variants, and even a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes of ingesting it.

Fentanyl is a serious threat in Louisiana. In August 2018, a Lafayette resident received a 151-month prison sentence after he was found in possession of multiple drugs, including 56 tablets that tested positive for fentanyl. In May 2018, a state trooper searching a vehicle found ten kilograms of fentanyl hidden inside the vehicle. That much fentanyl could kill over three million people.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN LOUISIANA (2012–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- July 2019:** The leader of a Baton Rouge-based drug trafficking organization pleaded guilty to using three illegal pill presses to manufacture counterfeit pills that contained heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl analogues, clonazepam, and other controlled substances.¹ A total of 21 individuals were indicted in this case and some prosecutions are still active.
- June 2019:** A New Orleans resident pleaded guilty to purchasing up to nine kilograms of acetyl fentanyl from China and distributing it locally during 2014 and 2015.²
- February 2019:** Two men from Texas each received 63 months in prison after a state trooper found ten kilograms of fentanyl in their vehicle during a traffic stop on Interstate-20 eastbound in May 2018.³
- August 2018:** Jacob Collett of Lafayette received a 151-month sentence after he was found in possession of multiple drugs, including 56 tablets containing fentanyl.⁴
- October 2017:** City leaders in New Orleans announced that law enforcement officers would carry naloxone to help prevent fatal overdoses.⁵
- August 2016:** Lafayette law enforcement warned the people of both the city and the parish about fentanyl after 13 people had died from the drug in 2016.⁶
- June 2017:** Gabriel Blatty of Metairie was arrested following an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service that turned up 100mg of carfentanil and 25 pills containing fentanyl.⁷
- April 2017:** Law enforcement in Natchitoches warned members of the public that they had found counterfeit pills containing fentanyl in the area.⁸
- January 2017:** A student filmmaker at Louisiana State University reported in January 2018 that he had lost a friend—one of six college friends who had died of overdoses during his tenure at LSU—to a fentanyl overdose. He had seen the student the night before his death, taking Xanax in a bar.⁹
- November 2016:** A Utah-based drug counterfeiting operation shipped a buyer in Louisiana 100 fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills.¹⁰

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned three Louisiana medical practices 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, 12 in Louisiana, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹²

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned 19 Louisiana 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.¹³
- July 2013:** The FDA warned eight Louisiana doctors and more than 230 nationwide to stop buying from Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox because they may be counterfeit and/or may be drugs from foreign or unknown sources that are not approved for distribution in the United States.¹⁴
- November 2012:** Eleven Louisiana doctors were among over 350 U.S. medical practices that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹⁵

OTHER DRUGS

- August 2019:** Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Shreveport announced seizing over 9,500 pounds of illegal prescription medicines in the first seven months of the year, including pills and syringes of illegal prescription drugs, including human growth hormone, Valium, Hyaluronic Acid Gel, sodium hyaluronate gel, Botox, Zolof, and various types of steroids.¹⁶
- November 2018:** Counterfeit medicine and contact lenses were included in the list of over 6,400 fake items seized by law enforcement in New Orleans during a one-month investigation spearheaded by the Department of Homeland Security.¹⁷
- January 2017:** Two Louisiana men were sentenced in federal court for their roles as drop shippers for a Thailand-based fake online pharmacy.¹⁸
- March 2016:** A federal jury convicted Darlene Krueger of Destrehan of six felony offenses in connection with a scheme to sell illegal and mislabelled diet pills to victims throughout Louisiana. She sold the pills between 2009 and 2014 and claimed they were “all natural,” but knew they contained sibutramine. Sibutramine is a Schedule IV controlled substance with known harmful side effects.¹⁹

FOOTNOTES

1. “Leader of Baton Rouge-based “FreeBandz” Drug Trafficking Organization Pleads Guilty,” U.S. Department of Justice, July 19, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2YzXunT>.
2. “New Orleans Man Pleads Guilty to Obtaining Kilograms of Fentanyl Analogue from China,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 3, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2YwbOhe>.
3. “Two Texas Men Sentenced to More than Five Years for Trafficking in Enough Fentanyl to Kill Millions,” U.S. Department of Justice, February 19, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2RABUOM>.
4. “Lafayette Man Sentenced to Nearly 13 Years in Prison for Conspiring to Distribute Multiple Quantities of Fentanyl, Heroin, Opioids and Other Controlled Substances and Illegally Possessing a Firearm,” U.S. Department of Justice, August 14, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2sX7hJ2>.
5. Jim Mustian, “Amid Surge in Overdose Deaths, New Orleans Police to Carry Naloxone, Hailed as ‘Miracle Drug,’” *The New Orleans Advocate*, October 18, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DAxMbW>.
6. Nick Gremillion, “Drug More Potent than Heroin Linked to 13 Local Deaths,” *KFLY News 10*, August 5, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2rmHoUi>.
7. Michelle Hunter, “Metairie Man Booked With Receiving Drug 100X Stronger Than Fentanyl,” *The Times-Picayune*, June 10, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2YwjH6k>.
8. Nate Fluharty, “Law Enforcement Warn of Dangerous Drugs Flooding Local Streets,” *KTBS 3*, April 11, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2F7DuxY>.
9. Jerry Mitchell, “After 6 Classmates’ Funerals, LSU Student is Making Movie About Drug Overdoses,” *Clarion Ledger*, February 5, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2Qov57o>.
10. Superseding Indictment, U.S. District Court, District of Utah, Central Division, Case No. 2:16-cr-00631-DAK, <http://bit.ly/2mGXekE>.
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12. “Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs, 2012–2014,” U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated July 2, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
13. “FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...,” <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
14. “Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...,” <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
15. “Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased...,” <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
16. “Shreveport CBP Officers Seize Prescription Drugs,” U.S. Customs and Border Protection, August 1, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2PtNCrR>.
17. Maria Clark, “Fake Saints Jerseys and Pills Among 6,400 Counterfeit Items Seized in New Orleans,” *The Times-Picayune*, November 15, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2PnBSXG>.
18. “Two Louisiana Men Sentenced for Roles in Online Pharmacy Scheme,” U.S. Department of Justice, January 13, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2EoQaYk>.
19. “March 23, 2016: Federal Jury Convicts Destrehan Woman in Scheme to Sell Illegal and Mislabeled Diet Pills,” U.S. Food and Drug Administration, March 23, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2DEq5Ro>.