

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN NEW JERSEY

May 2013: the FDA warned 42 New Jersey doctors' offices to stop buying from an unlicensed seller which had sold a fake cancer drug.

November 2018, Irvington: state police seized 27 pounds of fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills in a private residence.

April 2019, Middlesex County: 3 New Jersey residents were charged with selling hundreds of thousands of counterfeit Xanax tablets to buyers in 43 states.

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.

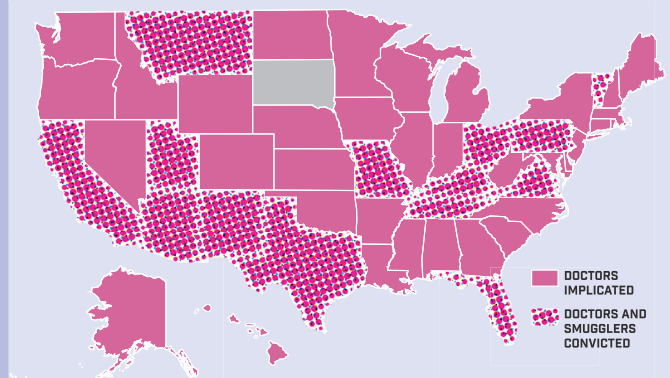
Fentanyl is a serious threat in New Jersey. In June 2017, law enforcement arrested two men as they did a drug deal in a North Bergen parking lot. 40 kilograms of fentanyl was involved, which is enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the state. November 2018 saw the shut down of a counterfeit fentanyl pill manufacturing operation in Ocean County. In January 2019, a Toms River resident died after taking fentanyl-laced pills.

130 NEW JERSEY DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

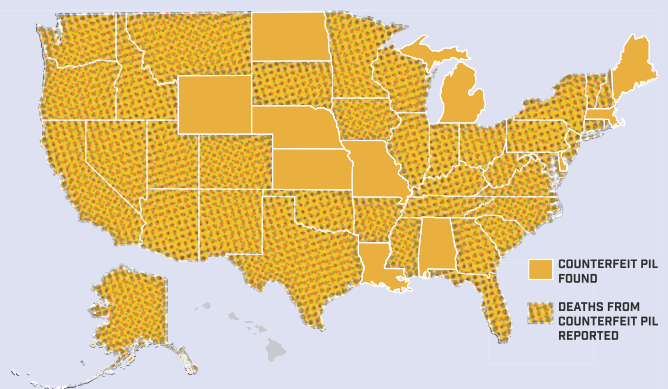
Counterfeit cancer drugs also threaten New Jersey. 130 different medical practices in New Jersey have been implicated in black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN NEW JERSEY (2011–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

NOTE THAT EACH INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE AFFECTED HUNDREDS OF NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS CONTAINING FENTANYL

- January 2019:** A Toms River resident died after taking fentanyl-laced pills. The man who allegedly sold him those pills was arrested and charged in February 2019.¹
- November 2018:** Ocean County law enforcement shut down a manufacturing operation that produced counterfeit oxycodone and Xanax pills laced with heroin and fentanyl.²
- November 2018:** State police arrested two people in possession of a stolen truck and seized 27 pounds of fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and other drugs, from their home in Irvington.³
- July 2018:** A Manhattan federal court charged two New Brunswick residents with distributing controlled substances, including counterfeit pills, via a fake online pharmacy that came under investigation after a customer in Idaho died of an overdose in March 2017.⁴
- June 2018:** Federal authorities indicted a Rhode Island man for his alleged role in a major international fentanyl pill ring. Investigators believe he was responsible for selling the fentanyl that killed a Ramsey resident on or around February 23, 2014.⁵
- June 2018:** Police arrested a mother and son from Cherry Hill for allegedly distributing drugs, including counterfeit pills made with fentanyl.⁶
- December 2017:** Prosecutors indicted two California men for their alleged roles in a large-scale drug distribution ring that shipped at least 500,000 fentanyl pills into New Jersey.⁷ Prosecution has moved forward against one of them.⁸
- November 2017:** Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office confirmed that counterfeit pills made with fentanyl had been found in Neptune, Holmdel, and Long Beach in 2017.⁹
- June 2017:** Federal agents arrested two in Carneys Point Township suspected of manufacturing counterfeit fentanyl pills in a home.¹⁰
- June 2017:** State Police detectives and members of the North Bergen Police Department arrested Jesus Carrillo-Pineda and Daniel Vasquez for transferring 40 kilograms of fentanyl from one vehicle to another. Both men pleaded guilty in December 2017. Carrillo-Pineda received a ten-year sentence and Vasquez received a six-year sentence in January 2018.¹¹

PILL PRESS SEIZURES

- December 2019:** A grand jury announced the indictment of nine men for drug trafficking. Over the course of the investigation authorities seized fentanyl-laced heroin, powdered dibutylone, over 900 dibutylone pills, and drug milling equipment, including a pill press.¹²

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- February 2017:** A Monmouth oncology practice, doctor, and practice manager agreed to pay \$1.7 million to settle charges that they illegally imported non-FDA approved medications and used them on their patients.¹³
- April 2015:** The FDA warned eight New Jersey medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹⁴
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, 42 in New Jersey, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹⁵
- February–June 2012:** Six New Jersey doctors were among the 136 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Alizuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a Canada Drugs subsidiary.¹⁶

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned 57 New Jersey 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.¹⁷
- August 2015:** Three residents of New Jersey and former employees of TC Medical—sales representatives Asaf Akiva Ibrahimian and Reuven David Mirlis, and drop shipper Rivka Rabi—received two years probation for their involvement in distributing non-FDA approved medications. Each of the defendants had to pay a \$5,000 fine. Ibrahimian had an additional forfeiture of \$173,469.¹⁸
- July 2013:** The FDA warned four doctors and medical practices in New Jersey to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹⁹
- November 2012:** Eleven New Jersey 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.²⁰

OTHER COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

- April 2019:** The New York State Supreme Court indicted three New Jersey residents for selling hundreds of thousands of counterfeit Xanax tablets and other controlled substances to buyers in 43 states. During the course of the case, investigators in Middlesex County seized 420,000 to 620,000 alprazolam tablets, four pill presses, and other drugs.²¹
- March 2019:** Ruben McAusland, a Patterson police officer, received a 66-month sentence for selling various illicit drugs, including counterfeit Percocet pills made with heroin.²²
- January 2019:** Two Middlesex County residents were arrested and charged for selling supplements for bodybuilders that contained prescription drugs, including high doses of tadalafil, the active ingredient in Cialis.²³
- September 2018:** A 33-year-old resident of Paterson admitted to manufacturing thousands of counterfeit Percocet pills made with heroin over the course of two months. A co-conspirator pleaded guilty to selling the pills.²⁴
- April 2018:** Law enforcement found counterfeit pills made with cocaine and alprazolam in Glassboro, NJ.²⁵
- February 2018:** Francisco Perez and Nadia Moronta Pena sold tens of thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with tramadol and heroin to an undercover agent in Paterson.²⁶ Having pleaded guilty in April 2018 and August 2019, respectively, they await sentencing.²⁷
- March 2017:** A Mays Landing resident was charged with illegally importing prescription drugs from India and China.²⁸
- September 2014:** New Jersey company Natural Health Solutions received a warning letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for making fraudulent claims that some of their products could cure Ebola.²⁹
- June 2014:** Authorities at the Burlington County Jail discovered a counterfeit oxycodone pill made with heroin. Additional pills were found at a house in Cherry Hill the following month.³⁰
- September 2012:** Two New Jersey doctors were among the 23 U.S. doctors that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of the osteoporosis injectable medications Prolia and Aclasta from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs.com subsidiary.³¹
- May 2011:** Closter couple Harshad and Nita Patel pleaded guilty to selling counterfeit prescription drugs sourced from India to customers in the United States.³² Both received a sentence of two-years probation. Nita Patel also received nine-months home confinement.³³



FOOTNOTES

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