

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN NEVADA

Las Vegas, January 2017:
Owner of Candy Color Lenses imprisoned for selling non-sterile fake contact lenses from Asia.

Washoe County, May 2016:
Multiple reports received of counterfeit oxycodone pills believed to be made with fentanyl.

2012–2015: Twenty-one medical practices received warning letters from the FDA about purchasing cancer medications from unlicensed foreign sources.

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.

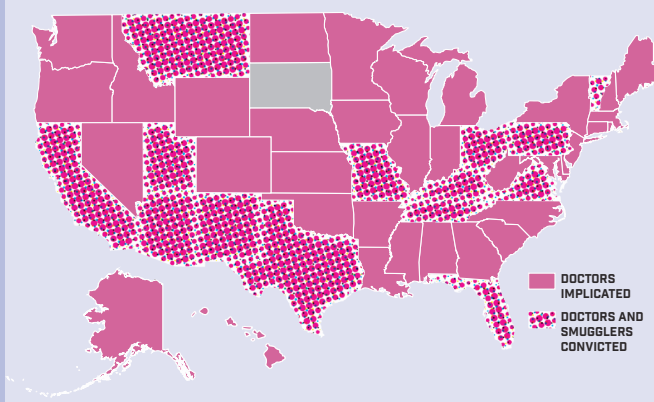
Fentanyl is a serious threat to Nevada residents. In January 2018, law enforcement arrested a man attempting to complete the sale of ten pounds of fentanyl at a gas station in North Las Vegas. In November 2018, a Henderson woman pleaded guilty to killing another woman with the counterfeit oxycodone pills she was selling.

35 NEVADA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

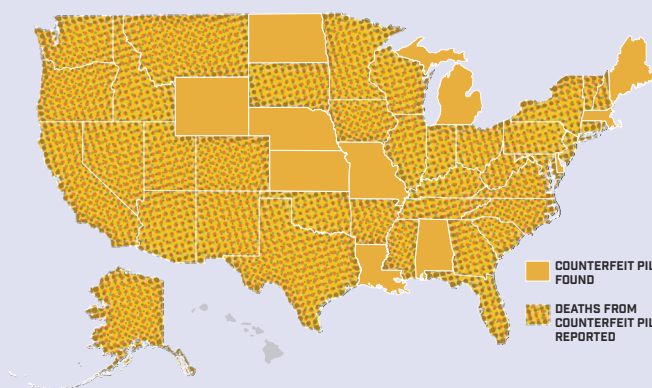
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Nevada as well. 35 different medical practices in Nevada have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

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

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN NEVADA (2009–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- August 2019:** “Oxygod” Wyatt Pasek sentenced to 17 and one-half years for manufacturing and selling counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl. Authorities intercepted at least one package of pills en route to customers in Nevada.¹
- March 2019:** Angel Garcia Flores of Las Vegas received a 57-month prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to distribution of fentanyl. Authorities arrested Flores with nearly 10 pounds of fentanyl at a mid-day drug deal taking place at a gas station with other customers present.²
- November 2018:** Tianna Christina Cordova of Henderson pleaded guilty to selling the fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone and hydrocodone that killed a woman in March 2017.³ Cordova was sentenced to 10 years in prison in July 2019.⁴
- May 2018:** Randy Ray Paulsen received a 144-month prison sentence for his participation in the attempted sale of a one-pound mixture of fentanyl and U-47700 found inside a washing machine at a local laundromat.⁵
- May 2017:** Data from the state’s health department indicated that opioid-related hospitalizations increased 150% from 2013 to 2015.⁶
- May 2016:** Counterfeit oxycodone pills were reported multiple times in Washoe County.⁷

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned five Nevada medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.⁸
- 2012–2013:** The FDA warned seven Nevada doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.⁹
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, nine in Nevada, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹⁰

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- July 2018:** Kelly Luanne Schaible of Henderson pleaded guilty to selling over \$2.3 million worth of misbranded cosmetic injectables.¹¹
- March 2016:** The FDA warned 11 Nevada 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.¹²
- July 2013:** The FDA warned three doctors in Nevada to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.¹³
- March 2009:** A Las Vegas doctor and his wife were sentenced to federal prison for injecting clients with non FDA-approved Botox that was labeled “For research purposes only, not for human use.”¹⁴

OTHER DRUGS

- January 2017:** Dmitriy V. Melnik, the owner of Las Vegas-based Candy Color Lenses, was sentenced to 46 months for selling tens of thousands of customers counterfeit and misbranded contact lenses, some of which were contaminated with bacteria, from suppliers in Asia.¹⁵
- September 2014:** Las Vegas pharmacologist Balbir Bhogal was indicted on multiple accounts related to trafficking in counterfeit drugs and importing and distributing controlled substances and misbranded drugs.¹⁶ Bhogal, who was supplying the pills to an illegal Internet pharmacy based in Costa Rica that catered to U.S. customers, was sentenced to three years probation and to forfeit \$15,705 in October 2016.¹⁷
- April 2011:** A Las Vegas resident died after an unlicensed doctor injected her with a gel during a buttocks enhancement procedure.¹⁸

FOOTNOTES

1. "Orange County Man Sentenced to 17½ Years in Federal Prison for Selling Counterfeit Opioid Pills Laced with Fentanyl," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, August 26, 2019, <https://bit.ly/33HqOrT>.
2. "Las Vegas Man Sentenced to Nearly Five Years in Prison for Distribution of Fentanyl," U.S. Department of Justice, March 4, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2qjQgI4>.
3. "Henderson Woman Pleads Guilty to Distribution of Fentanyl Resulting in the Death of a Person," U.S. Department of Justice, November 20, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2rQhvKL>.
4. Federal Prosecutors Obtain Lengthy Prison Sentence Against Henderson Woman in Deadly Fentanyl Distribution Case," U.S. Department of Justice, July 12, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2LjddCA>.
5. "Reno Man Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Conspiracy to Distribute Synthetic Opioid Drug U-47700," U.S. Department of Justice, May 9, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2OPoEnF>.
6. Alison Noon, "Governor's Plan to Track Opioid Abuse in Real Time Advances," *U.S. News and World Report*, May 27, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2HtHiQn>.
7. Paul Harris, "Dangerous Pills Showing Up in Washoe County," *KOLO 8*, May 13, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2GZEO5>.
8. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated July 3, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
9. "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>.
10. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased..." <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
11. "Internet Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Selling \$2.3 Million Worth of Non-FDA Approved and Misbranded Botox and Juvederm-Related Products," U.S. Department of Justice, <http://bit.ly/2Ln4uzj>.
12. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased..." <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
13. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased..." <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
14. "March 30, 2009: Las Vegas Doctor and Wife Sentenced to Prison for Botox Fraud Scheme," U.S. Department of Justice, March 30, 2009, <https://bit.ly/2yPXL9>.
15. "Owner Of Major Online Colored Contact Lens Business Sentenced to 46 Months in Prison in Largest-Ever Scheme to Import and Sell Counterfeit and Misbranded Contact Lenses Prosecuted in the United States," U.S. Department of Justice, January 18, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2Em5Cl7>.
16. "Wisconsin Pharmacist And Nevada Pharmacologist Charged With Smuggling Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals Using A Costa Rican Internet Pharmacy," U.S. Department of Justice, September 12, 2014, <http://bit.ly/2ENSfQr>.
17. Judgment, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, Case 1:14-cr-00374-JFB, <http://bit.ly/2EooNrl>; and Order of Forfeiture, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, Case 1:14-cr-00374-JFB, <http://bit.ly/2EkyCtH>.
18. "Las Vegas Woman Dies After Backroom Buttocks Enhancement Surgery," *Fox News*, April 12, 2011, <http://fxn.ws/2ncA7iH>.