

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN VIRGINIA

Waynesboro, February 2018:
A resident died after taking a counterfeit pill laced with carfentanil.

Arlington, December 2013:
Gallant Pharma pleaded guilty to selling \$12.4 million in illegally imported cancer and cosmetic drugs to doctors in 33 states.

Springfield, September 2015–November 2018:
A man made and sold illegal steroids and fake prescription drugs in a clandestine home lab.

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.

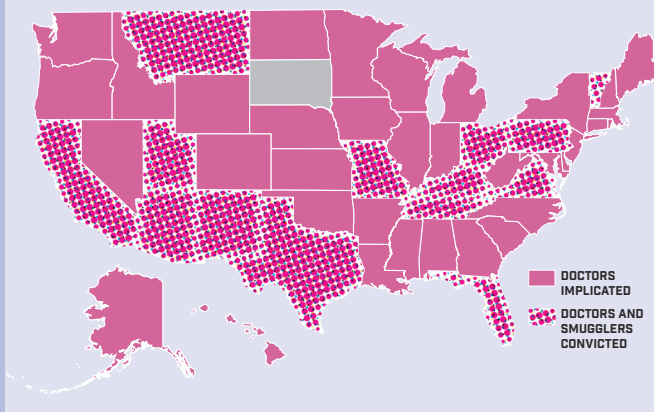
Fentanyl is a serious threat to Virginians. In December 2017, police seized almost 2 kilograms of fentanyl—enough to kill nearly a million people—during a highway stop in Rockingham County. In August 2019, 120 officers from 30 law enforcement agencies combined efforts to intercept 35 kilograms of fentanyl—more than 11 million fatal doses—bound for Hampton Roads. In November 2019, law enforcement shut down a drug trafficking ring in Carroll, Wythe, Floyd and Pulaski counties and found \$140,000 worth of counterfeit opioid pills suspected of containing fentanyl among the drug they confiscated.

45 VIRGINIA DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

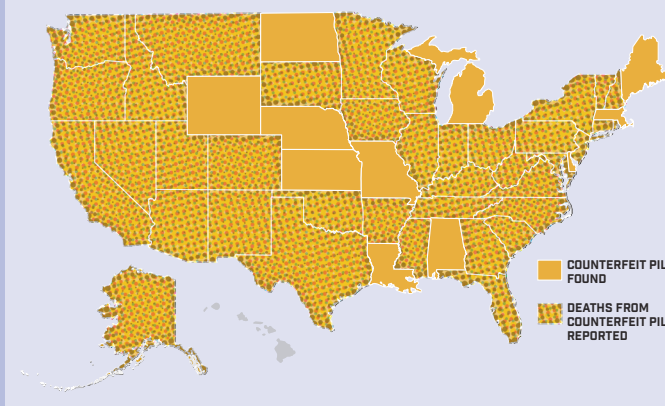
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Virginia as well. 45 different medical practices in Virginia have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones 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 VIRGINIA LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



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



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- September 2019:** The Twin-County Drug Task Force concluded a two-year investigation by arresting two men in Floyd and seizing methamphetamine with a street value of \$1.4 million, \$300,000 worth of cocaine, and \$140,000 worth of counterfeit opioid pills suspected of containing fentanyl. According to the task force, the organization had distributed drugs in Carroll, Wythe, Floyd and Pulaski counties.¹
- August 2019:** An investigation involving 120 law enforcement officers from 30 agencies, mostly in Virginia, but also in North Carolina and Texas kept 35 kilograms of fentanyl from ending up in Hampton Roads.²
- February 2018:** A Waynesboro resident died after taking a counterfeit pill laced with carfentanil. Augusta County Circuit Court convicted Staunton resident Darryl B. McClurkin II of involuntary manslaughter for supplying the drugs.³
- January 2018:** The Chief Medical Examiner's office reported that fatal fentanyl overdoses increased by 177% from 2015 to 2016, and were projected to rise again in 2017.⁴ A Virginia State Police special agent reported at a discussion panel that Virginians had died after taking fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills.⁵
- October 2017:** Three Virginia Beach police officers were treated for fentanyl exposure after they became ill during an overdose call.⁶ An officer in Stafford County was treated with naloxone at a local emergency room after a similar experience in August 2017.⁷
- August 2017:** Police in Rockingham County seized nearly two kilograms of fentanyl during a traffic stop on I-81.⁸
- November 2016:** Aaron Michael Shamo's indictment alleges that the Utah-based drug trafficker, who was found with 95,000 counterfeit Xanax and fentanyl-laced oxycodone pills on November 22 and allegedly sold his products in at least 24 states, shipped 362 deadly counterfeit oxycodone pills to Virginia.⁹

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA warned 271 medical practices, five in Virginia, to stop buying medicine from unlicensed drug distributor Gallant Pharmaceuticals.¹⁰ Gallant, a northern Virginia-based company that claimed it was Canadian, sold 39 non-FDA-approved medications shipped in unsanitary conditions from unreliable sources in countries such as India, Switzerland, and Turkey. The federal government convicted and sentenced 12 individuals—executives, sales representatives, administrative staff and others, including a physician in McLean who received the illegal medicines and treated his own patients with them—in connection with the case.¹¹
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, 10 in Virginia, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹²
- 2012–2013:** The FDA warned more than 500 medical practices across the country—five in Virginia—to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.¹³

OTHER DRUGS:

- November 2019:** Alexandria resident John Russell Kestel received a five-year sentence for manufacturing and distributing anabolic steroids, and money laundering.¹⁴ Between 2015 and 2018, Kestel manufactured steroids as well as counterfeit Accutane, Ambien, Clomid, Finasteride, and an erectile dysfunction drug with raw materials he purchased from China and Canada, and sold them online to customers and resellers in the U.S. and Canada.¹⁵
- March 2016:** The FDA warned 23 Virginia 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.¹⁶
- December 2011:** Fairfax County police seized thousands of doses of counterfeit prescription medication from stores when residents were hospitalized after taking them. The drugs, which included painkillers, birth control pills, antibiotics and other drugs, were allegedly smuggled into the country from Central America.¹⁷

FOOTNOTES

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4. "Fatal Drug Overdose Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 2017," Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health, January 2018, <http://bit.ly/2nuKWgj>.
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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>.
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16. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...," <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.
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