

THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN WASHINGTON

August–September 2019, Sammamish and Seattle: Four high school students died after taking counterfeit prescription painkillers.

May 2013: The FDA warned 21 Washington doctors to stop buying medicine from an unlicensed seller who had sold a counterfeit cancer drug.

December 2018, Seattle: Law enforcement seized 11,000 counterfeit Xanax pills and a pill press from a home.

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 Washingtonians.

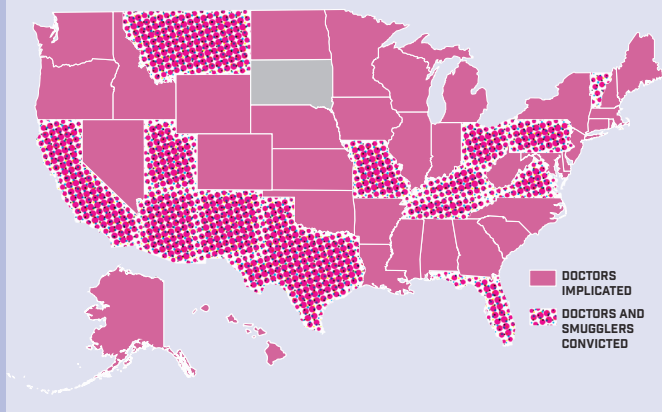
The Department of Health reported an 86% rise in confirmed fentanyl deaths between 2015 and 2016. Since March 2016, when DEA agents raided a house in Seattle that was being used as a fentanyl lab, authorities have reported more than 20 fentanyl pill-related deaths in Anacortes, Kennewick, Martha Lake, Mount Vernon, Port Town, Sammamish, Seattle, and Yakima and have shut down pill manufacturing or trafficking operations in Arlington, Bremerton, Friday Harbor, Kennewick, Moses Lake, Pasco, Port Townsend, Sammamish and Seattle.

59 WASHINGTON DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

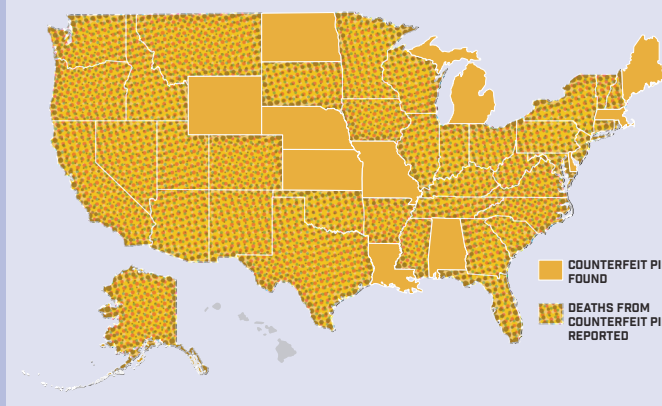
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Washington as well. 59 different medical practices in Washington have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved 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 WASHINGTON LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN WASHINGTON (2010–2019)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

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

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- August–September 2019:** Four high school students—two in Sammamish and two in Seattle—died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit pills that they thought were prescription painkillers.¹
- September 2019:** Police searched a home in Sammamish and seized 12,000 fentanyl pills, cash and other drugs.²
- September 2019:** The Yakima County Coroner's Office warned that they had seen three deaths over a five-day period that were connected to suspected counterfeit OxyContin pills.³
- June 2019:** Taylor Fertig of Kennewick received a ten-year sentence for distributing large quantities of counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl.⁴
- June 2019:** Police at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix arrested a Delta Airlines passenger who was delivering a kilogram of heroin and 500 fentanyl pills to a buyer in Seattle.⁵
- February 2019:** An Anacortes man died after taking suspected fentanyl pills. The Skagit County Superior Court charged his alleged supplier in Friday Harbor with controlled substance homicide in August 2019.⁶
- January 2019:** Public Health—Seattle & King County warned that seven people in northern Seattle had suffered suspected fentanyl-related overdoses from either injected heroin or crushed pills in one day.⁷
- December 2018:** Federal, state and local law enforcement officers arrested 51 people and shut down a multi-state drug trafficking organization that sold fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills and other drugs in Pierce, Kitsap, King, Skagit and Snohomish Counties.⁸
- September 2018:** Two men were charged with trafficking fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills in Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom Counties after law enforcement seized more than 10,000 of the counterfeit pills from them in Arlington in July 2018.⁹
- June 2018:** Police in Moses Lake seized counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl when they arrested a man for drug possession.¹⁰
- June 2018:** Federal authorities charged a man in Kennewick and another in Pasco for providing the counterfeit fentanyl pills that led to a Kennewick resident's death in October 2017.¹¹ One of the men was sentenced to 15 years in prison in August 2019. The other received a five-year sentence.¹²
- April–May 2018:** Four people living in and around Mount Vernon died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit Percocet pills. Over the course of 2018, authorities charged two women in Burlington and two Mount Vernon men in three separate cases related to the deaths.¹³
- February 2018:** An 18-year-old resident of Everett died in Martha Lake after she consumed counterfeit Percocet.¹⁴
- February 2018:** Agents searched the residence of Braulio Jimenez in Pasco and found more than 19,000 fentanyl-laced pills, 67 pounds of other illicit drugs and \$170,000 in cash. Jimenez received an 18-year sentence in September 2019.¹⁵
- December 2017:** A 36-year-old Yakima man died of fentanyl poisoning after taking oxycodone and Xanax pills that proved to be counterfeit. Authorities charged the man who sold those pills with controlled substance homicide in May 2019.¹⁶
- November 2017:** Five overdoses due to counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl caused Yakima Public Health authorities to issue a warning.¹⁷
- October 2017:** A van left in Puyallup, Washington turned out to contain 25 pounds of fentanyl, and 14 pounds of other drugs connected to Mexican cartels.¹⁸
- October 2017:** Public Health—Seattle & King County announced that Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory tests revealed that a batch of pills that resembled oxycodone were actually counterfeit pills made with fentanyl.¹⁹

- August 2017:** Federal prosecutors accused Seattle resident Gregory L. Smith of importing pounds of raw fentanyl from China and then selling it to American drug dealers via Bitcoin.²⁰
- May 2017:** The Washington State Department of Health reported that Washington experienced 70 lab-confirmed fentanyl deaths in 2016, an 86% increase from the previous year.²¹
- May 2016:** Counterfeit Xanax and Percocet made with fentanyl was implicated in two deaths and several overdoses in Yakima.²²
- March 2016:** Two Seattle roommates faced charges in federal court that they manufactured fentanyl in their home for use and sale.²³

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to four Washington doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.²⁴
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 doctors, 21 in Washington, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.²⁵
- 2012–2013:** The FDA warned six Washington doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.²⁶

COUNTERFEIT AND MISBRANDED MEDICATION

- March 2019:** Agents in Port Townsend seized a pill press, a white powdery substance and other drug paraphernalia during a controlled substances homicide investigation.²⁷
- December 2018:** Federal authorities charged a Seattle resident with manufacturing and selling counterfeit Xanax pills and other drugs. Investigators who searched his home found 11,000 Xanax pills stored in large plastic bags and a large pill press.²⁸
- October 2018:** Law enforcement in Kitsap County charged a Bremerton resident and his brother with running a pill manufacturing lab and seized three pill press machines; dye stamps for oxycodone, methadone, and alprazolam; and hundreds of pre-made pills.²⁹
- October 2017:** Rick Marschall of the Natural Healing Clinic was sent to prison for two months for prescribing the misbranded steroid HCG as a weight-loss treatment. It was his second conviction.³⁰
- June 2016:** Jason Yoon was sentenced to six months for importing and distributing counterfeit goods to approximately 1,300 small businesses in western Washington, including imported “sex pills” that contained undeclared sildenafil and tadalafil, prescription drugs which can cause serious side effects if taken incorrectly or combined with alcohol.³¹
- October 2010:** A Canadian father and son plead guilty to receiving delivery of nearly 3,000 counterfeit erectile dysfunction pills shipped from China. The pair had the pills delivered to a Seattle post box.³²

COUNTERFEIT COSMETIC INJECTABLES

- October 2018:** A Seattle resident died of a lung hemorrhage after silicone from black market injections he had received traveled to his lungs.³³
- March 2015:** 23 Washington 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.³⁴
- July 2013:** The FDA warned five doctors and medical practices in Washington to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.³⁵

FOOTNOTES

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