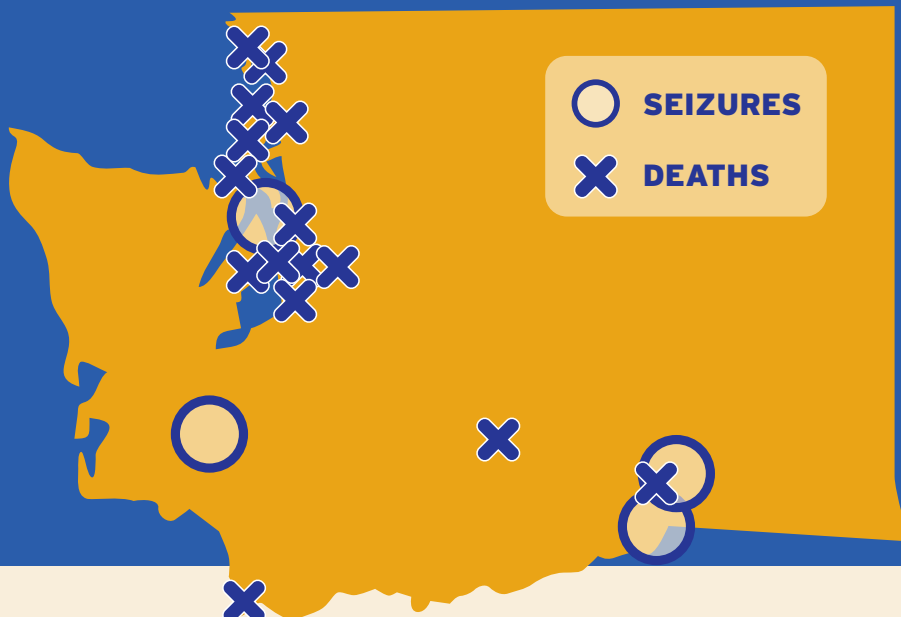


Washington: Hotbed of Deadly Fake Pills



Washington's market in deadly counterfeit prescription pills made with fentanyl and fentanyl analogues is booming: 250,000 counterfeit pills, nearly 100 defendants, and 11 fatalities from counterfeit drugs in 2020 alone.

Law enforcement in Chehalis, Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and the Puget Sound region seized at least 250,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl and charged nearly 100 people with counterfeit pill trafficking that caused eleven fatal poisonings this year. 36 confirmed fatalities span the state: residents of Anacortes, Bellingham, Bellevue, Ferndale, Kennewick, Kent, Martha Lake, Mount Vernon, Naval Base Kitsap, Oak Harbor, Pasco, Port Townsend, Sammamish, Seattle, Vancouver, and Yakima have died in the last five years.

Since DEA agents raided a fentanyl lab in Seattle in March 2016, authorities have gone on to shut down pill manufacturing and trafficking operations in Arlington, Bothell, Bremerton, Friday Harbor, Kennewick, Moses Lake, Pasco, Port Townsend, Richland, Sammamish, Seattle, and Snohomish.



June-December 2020, Puget Sound region: 79 people were charged for their alleged roles in transnational fentanyl pill trafficking rings.

August-September 2019, Sammamish and Seattle: Four high schoolers died after taking counterfeit prescription painkillers.

February 2018, Pasco: Agents seized 19,000 fentanyl-laced pills that had been smuggled from Mexico.

COUNTERFEIT ANTI-ANXIETY PILLS, STEROIDS AND CANCER DRUGS ALSO PLAGUE WASHINGTON

Law enforcement found pill press operations making **steroids** and **anti-anxiety pills** in homes in Bremerton and Seattle in 2018 and 2019.

Between 2012 and 2015, the FDA warned 56 medical practices to stop buying medicine from black market distributors who sold **counterfeit cancer medicines** or **fake Botox**.

Fake drug sellers also endangered Washingtonians by selling **fake, imported ED pills**, and **"natural" supplements** that contained **undeclared prescription drugs** which can cause serious side effects.

STOP DRUG COUNTERFEITERS

Support and strengthen the closed drug supply chain to protect Washingtonians from injury and death.

COUNTERFEIT & BLACKMARKET DRUG INCIDENTS IN WASHINGTON, 2010-2021



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- January 2021:** Rosaliana Lopez-Rodriguez of Mount Vernon pleaded guilty to dealing the counterfeit oxycodone pills that killed a 17-year-old Bellingham resident in 2019.¹
- December 2020:** Authorities seized 16,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills and arrested eight people who allegedly trafficked fentanyl and other drugs in the Puget Sound region.² Eleven more Puget Sound-area residents were charged with similar crimes later in the month.³
- October 2020:** Law enforcement in Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland reported confiscating 114,000 fentanyl pills over the course of four busts in 2020.⁴
- October 2020:** 20-year-old Bellevue resident Bobby Ausbun died of fentanyl poisoning after taking a counterfeit Percocet.⁵
- June–August 2020:** Federal officials seized more than 42,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills and arrested more than 60 people in the Puget Sound region for their alleged involvement in a narcotics trafficking ring.⁶
- August 2020:** The Oak Harbor police charged a man with providing the counterfeit fentanyl pill that killed 40-year-old Jose Colon in June 2020.⁷
- August 2020:** Three men were charged with selling the counterfeit fentanyl pills that killed a sailor at Naval Base Kitsap on April 18, 2020.⁸
- August 2020:** Police arrested three Whatcom County residents who allegedly sold the counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl that killed a Bellingham man in March 2020.⁹
- July 2020:** Lewis County's Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team seized 26,000 fentanyl pills and 1,000 grams of heroin in Chehalis on July 14. Three Arizonans—one of whom has pleaded guilty—are being prosecuted.¹⁰
- June 2020:** A U.S. district court sentenced Yakima resident Francisco Salazar Jr. to seven years in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to selling counterfeit pills made with fentanyl.¹¹
- June 2020:** A 23-year-old Vancouver man was charged for allegedly selling fake Percocet pills made with fentanyl that killed LaJeune Q. Gay and Kristina L. Rosbach.¹²
- May 2020:** Two Whatcom County women were charged with allegedly providing the counterfeit Percocet pills made with fentanyl that killed Jeremiah Crediford of Bellingham in November 2019.¹³
- March 2020:** A U.S. district court sentenced 41-year-old Rhett Irons, of Lynwood to 15 years in prison. Irons sold hundreds of counterfeit fentanyl pills a day from a rented property in Bothell.¹⁴
- February 2020:** The Bellevue Police Department warned residents that two local high school students had almost died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit Percocet.¹⁵
- February 2020:** King County officials warned that three people—including 26-year-old Kraz Lee Adrian—had died after taking counterfeit counterfeit prescription painkillers made with fentanyl.¹⁶
- February 2020:** Investigators arrested a Kennewick man after finding 53,000 fentanyl pills in his car.¹⁷
- January 2020:** Michael John Scott, of Snohomish, received a six-and-one-half-year sentence in federal prison for selling counterfeit fentanyl pills.¹⁸
- January 2020:** A 19-year-old Pasco resident was charged with selling the counterfeit oxycodone pills that killed a 17-year-old.¹⁹
- November 2019:** 23-year-old Cal Heinen died in Seattle after he took a counterfeit pill made with fentanyl.²⁰ Two Bellingham residents also died after taking counterfeit pills.²¹
- 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.²²
- September 2019:** Police found 12,000 fentanyl pills, cash and other drugs in a home in Sammamish.²³

- September 2019:** The Yakima County Coroner's Office warned that the deaths of three residents had been linked to counterfeit OxyContin pills.²⁴ A 30-year-old member of the Lummi Reservation in Ferndale also died after taking counterfeit fentanyl pills.²⁵
- June 2019:** Taylor Fertig of Kennewick received a ten-year sentence for distributing large quantities of counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl.²⁶
- February 2019:** Anacortes resident Frank Gray died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit pills. His supplier, Logan Allan Eby of Friday Harbor, received a four-year-and-three-months prison sentence in September 2020.²⁷
- December 2018:** Federal, state and local law enforcement officers arrested 51 people who allegedly sold fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills and other drugs in Pierce, Kitsap, King, Skagit and Snohomish Counties.²⁸
- 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 2018.²⁹
- June 2018:** Police in Moses Lake seized counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl when they arrested a man for drug possession.³⁰
- 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 2017.³¹ One of the men was sentenced to 15 years in prison in August 2019. The other received a five-year sentence.³²
- April and May 2018:** Four people living in and around Mount Vernon died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit Percocet pills. Authorities charged two women in Burlington and two Mount Vernon men in three separate cases related to the deaths.³³ All of them pleaded guilty and received prison sentences ranging from four to eight years.³⁴
- February 2018:** An 18-year-old Everett resident died in Martha Lake after she consumed counterfeit Percocet.³⁵
- February 2018:** Agents found more than 19,000 fentanyl-laced pills, 67 pounds of other illicit drugs and \$170,000 in cash when they searched Braulio Jimenez's home in Pasco. Jimenez received an 18-year sentence in September 2019.³⁶
- December 2017:** A 36-year-old Yakima man died of fentanyl poisoning after taking counterfeit pills. Authorities charged the man who sold those pills with controlled substance homicide in May 2019.³⁷
- November 2017:** Five overdoses due to counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl caused Yakima Public Health authorities to issue a warning.³⁸
- 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.³⁹
- 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.⁴⁰
- May 2016:** Counterfeit Xanax and Percocet made with fentanyl were implicated in two deaths and several overdoses in Yakima.⁴¹

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.⁴²
- 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.⁴³
- 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.⁴⁴

COUNTERFEIT AND MISBRANDED MEDICATION

- March 2019:** Agents in Port Townsend seized a pill press, a white powdery substance and other drug paraphernalia from a residence during a controlled substances homicide investigation.⁴⁵ The equipment was used to manufacture illicit steroid pills that were sold across the country.⁴⁶
- 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 and a large pill press.⁴⁷
- 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; die molds for oxycodone, methadone, and alprazolam; and hundreds of pre-made pills.⁴⁸

- 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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- October 2010:** A Canadian father and son pleaded guilty to receiving nearly 3,000 counterfeit erectile dysfunction pills shipped from China. The pills were delivered to a Seattle post box.⁵¹

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.⁵²
- 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.⁵³
- 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.⁵⁴

FOOTNOTES

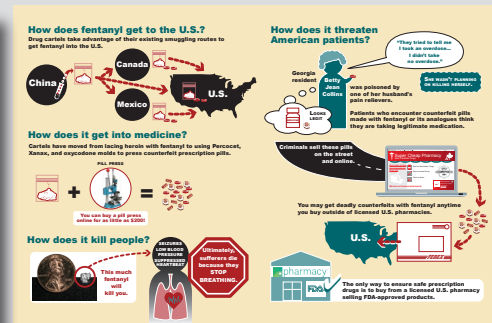
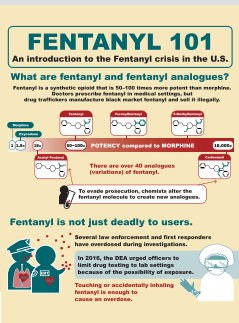
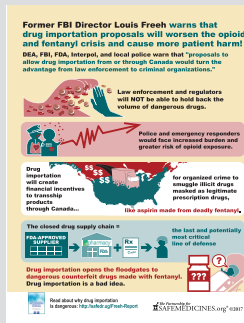
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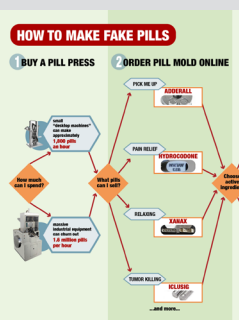
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