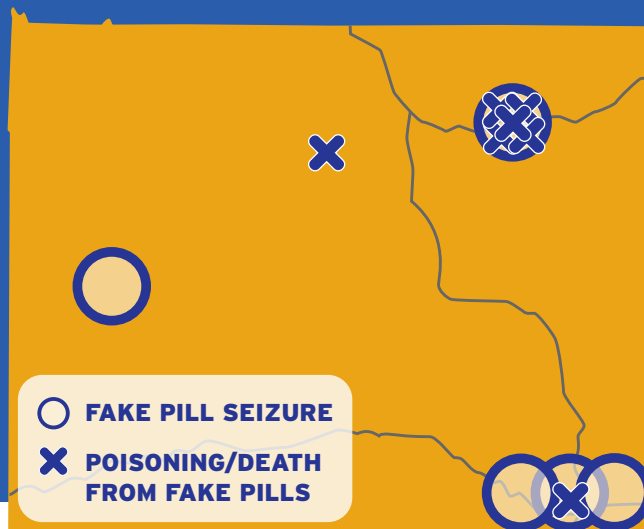


# Wyoming's fake pill problem is growing



## FENTANYL WAS SLOW TO GET A GRIP ON WYOMING, BUT COUNTERFEIT PILL INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY IN RECENT YEARS.

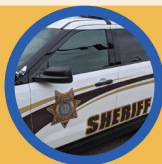
Wyoming reported the confirmed **counterfeit pill death of a Cheyenne resident** in February 2021, and a wave of at least **five fatal fentanyl poisonings in Gillette** between December 2019 and June 2020. Law enforcement has made **fentanyl pill seizures in Cheyenne, Gillette and Sublette County** since the beginning of 2020. These incidents followed **kilogram-size seizures of fentanyl powder** in April 2018 and May 2019, and the **near-death of a woman in Worland** who took a fake oxycodone made with fentanyl in August 2018.



**February 2021, Cheyenne:**  
A resident died after taking a counterfeit fentanyl pill.



**October 2020, Gillette:** The Division of Criminal Investigation seized almost 1,400 fake oxycodone pills made with fentanyl from a resident's home.



**May 2019, Laramie County:** Wyoming Highway Patrol seized a kilogram of fentanyl among other illicit drugs during a traffic stop.

## Black market medicine has also made its way into Wyoming.



Between 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned nine Wyoming doctors to stop buying oncology drugs and Botox from unlicensed sellers that had been caught selling counterfeits.



In 2018, U.S. Customs and Border Protection caught a Torrington woman importing tapentadol tablets from India and two Riverton residents smuggling steroids from China.



Wyoming residents deserve safe and effective medicine. Protect them by protecting the U.S. secure drug supply chain.

# COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INCIDENTS IN WYOMING, 2013-2021

BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

## FENTANYL AND FENTANYL PILLS

- February 2021:** A Cheyenne man was arrested for allegedly receiving and distributing a large shipment of fentanyl pills, including those that caused the poisoning death of Harrison Jacknitsky on February 20, 2021. Police found 16 grams of suspected oxycodone and/or fentanyl pills, among other drugs, when they searched his apartment.<sup>1</sup>
- January 2021:** An Idaho man was arrested for bringing counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl into Sublette County.<sup>2</sup>
- October 2020:** Prosecutors in the sentencing phase against fentanyl pill kingpin Aaron Shamo stated in a court document that the defendant shipped fake fentanyl pills to every single state.<sup>3</sup>
- October 2020:** Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation found almost 1,400 counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl in the home of Gillette resident Joseph Laray Speigelmyer. Speigelmyer pleaded guilty to drug charges in March 2021.<sup>4</sup>
- July 2020:** The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation found 121 fentanyl pills in the home of Matthew Skipper, a Gillette resident who they later filed charges against in September 2020.<sup>5</sup> Skipper pleaded guilty in September 2020.<sup>6</sup>
- June 2020:** The Campbell County Coroner announced that a Gillette resident who had died of fentanyl poisoning on May 11 was the city's fifth fentanyl-related death since December 2019.<sup>7</sup>
- May 2019:** The Wyoming Highway Patrol seized a kilogram of fentanyl and more than 25 kilos of other illicit drugs during a traffic stop in Laramie County. The driver of the vehicle, Arnold D. Butler, was convicted at trial and received a 20-year federal prison sentence in July 2020.<sup>8</sup>
- August 2018:** A woman in Worland nearly died of fentanyl poisoning when the oxycodone she purchased from fellow Worland residents proved to be counterfeit.<sup>9</sup>
- April 2018:** Law enforcement seized a kilogram of suspected fentanyl and 16 kilograms of suspected heroin and methamphetamine while searching a vehicle in Albany County.<sup>10</sup>

## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to two Wyoming doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non FDA approved medications.<sup>11</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including two doctors' offices in Wyoming, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>12</sup>

## MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned four Wyoming 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.<sup>13</sup>
- July 2013:** The FDA warned one medical practice in Wyoming to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>14</sup>

## OTHER COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS

- December 2018:** A Torrington resident was arrested after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials intercepted a package of the opioid tapentadol on its way from India to her house. A search warrant yielded 2,000 tapentadol tablets, along with oxycodone and fentanyl.<sup>15</sup>
- January 2018:** Two Riverton men were charged with "attempting to possess a felony amount of a Schedule III controlled substance" when U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized a package on its way to them from China that contained a year's supply of steroids. The shipment had been declared to be beauty products.<sup>16</sup>

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## Order these publications from us (free to members):

**Former FBI Director Louis Freeh warns that drug importation proposals will worsen the opioid and fentanyl crisis and cause more patient harm!** DEA, FBI, FDA, Interpol, and local police warn that proposals to allow drug importation from or through Canada would turn the advantage from law enforcement to criminal organizations.

Law enforcement and regulators will NOT be able to hold back the volume of dangerous drugs.

Police and emergency responders will face increased burden and greater risk of opioid exposure.

Drug importation will create financial incentives to warehouse prescription drugs through Canada... the origin made from deadly fentanyl.

The closed drug supply chain = the best and potentially most critical element of drug defense.

Drug importation opens the floodgates to dangerous counterfeit drugs made with fentanyl. Drug importation is a bad idea.

Read and stay drug importation 1 degree: <http://bit.ly/3foYQMy>

**FENTANYL 101**  
An introduction to the Fentanyl crisis in the U.S.

**What are fentanyl and fentanyl analogues?**  
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. Doctors prescribe fentanyl in medical settings, but drug traffickers manufacture black market fentanyl that is illegally sold.

**POTENCY compared to MORPHINE**  
There are over 40 analogues (variants) of fentanyl.

To evade prosecution, chemists alter the fentanyl molecule to create new analogues.

**Fentanyl is not just deadly to users.**  
Several law enforcement and first responders have overdosed during investigations.

In 2016, the DEA urged officers to limit drug testing to lab settings because of the possibility of exposure.

Touching or accidentally inhaling fentanyl is enough to cause an overdose.

**How does fentanyl get to the U.S.?**  
Drug cartels take advantage of their existing smuggling routes to get fentanyl into the U.S.

**How does it threaten American patients?**  
Patients who encounter counterfeit pills made with fentanyl or its analogues think they are taking legitimate medication.

**How does it get into medicine?**  
Cartels have moved from lacing heroin with fentanyl to using Percocet, Xanax, and oxycontin made to press counterfeit prescription pills.

**How does it kill people?**  
Fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. It can be inhaled, injected, or swallowed.

**U.S.:** The only way to ensure safe prescription drugs is to buy from a licensed U.S. pharmacy selling FDA-approved products.

**Black Market Cancer Drugs in the U.S. 2007-2018**  
Wholesale importation backfired resulting in thousands of patients endangered and physicians prosecuted.

**Wholesale importation backfired:** The importation program failed to reduce costs and instead caused thousands of patients to be harmed.

**Wholesale importation is not safe:** Wholesale importation is not safe, even as a wholesale import. Only licensed U.S. wholesalers selling FDA-approved medicines are safe for American patients.

Fentanyl 101 folded 11" x 17" pamphlet

Black Market Cancer Drugs, 2007-2018 8.5" x 11" flyer

**PILL PRESSES AND THE NEW DECENTRALIZED COUNTERFEIT TRADE**  
SINCE 2015 THE U.S. HAS BEEN FLOODED WITH COUNTERFEIT PAINKILLERS AND FAKE XANAX LAMBS WITH FENTANYL.

**48 STATES HAVE REPORTED FINDING THEM, AND AS OF JUNE 2019, THEY HAVE KILLED PEOPLE IN 23 STATES.**

It's not just fentanyl, pill presses can make any kind of pill.

These pills come from cartels overseas, BUT THEY'RE ALSO MADE IN THE U.S. BY DRUG COUNTERFEITERS PURCHASING LEGAL INGREDIENTS INTERNATIONALLY.

**HOW TO MAKE FAKE PILLS**

- BUY A PILL PRESS
- ORDER PILL MOLD ONLINE
- SCORE YOUR SUPPLIES
- MAKE FAKE PILLS

**AREN'T THESE ILLEGAL? WHY DON'T ANYONE STOPPING THEM?**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- KEEP YOUR PHARMACY AND DRUGS SAFE. ONLY GET MEDICINE FROM U.S. LICENSED PHARMACIES AND NEVER ACCEPT A HAND-PROCESSED PILL FROM ANYONE. IT COULD BE A COUNTERFEIT CONTAINING REMAINS OF ANOTHER TOXIC DRUG.
- REPORT COUNTERFEIT PILLS TO THE FBI AT 877-FEDERAL OR ONLINE AT <https://www.fda.gov/oc/counterfeit-drugs>, OR THE ATF AT <https://www.atf.gov/ceq>.
- LET YOUR LEGISLATORS KNOW WE NEED BETTER LAWS.
- SUPPORT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES TO INTERCEPT AND DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DRUGS.

Pill Press Infographic folded 11" x 17" pamphlet

**Beloved Mother Stain by a Colorado Counterfeit Drug Trade**

**48 States Have a Deadly Fentanyl Problem**

**What Is a Fentanyl Problem?**

**What Do They Even Do?**

**What Are the Signs of a Fentanyl Problem?**

**What Can You Do?**

Victims 8.5" x 11" flyer

Contact us at [editors@safemedicines.org](mailto:editors@safemedicines.org) for more materials about counterfeit drugs in the U.S.