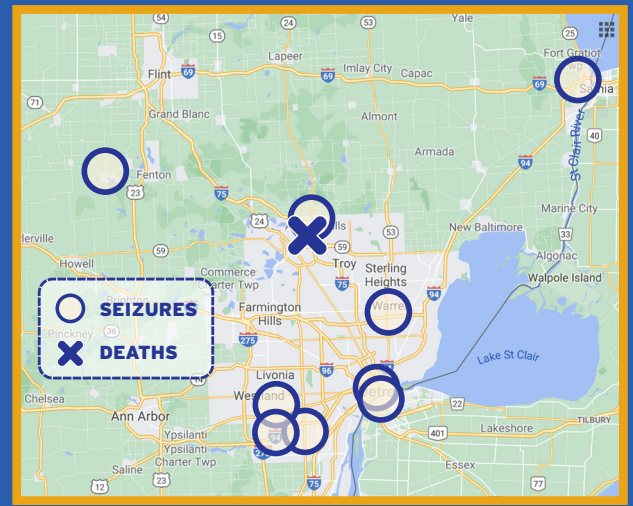
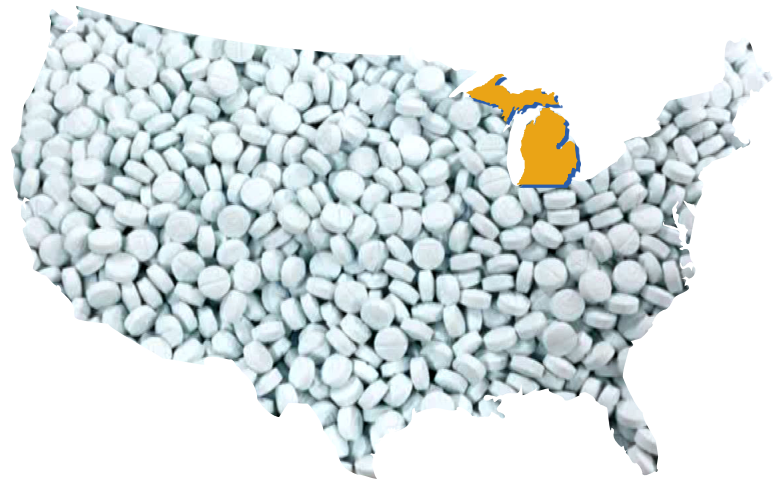


Michigan, Fake Pill Distribution Hub of the Midwest



RECENT CASES SUGGEST THAT MICHIGAN IS A HUB FOR THE MOVEMENT OF COUNTERFEIT PILLS INTO NEARBY STATES.

In January 2021 police in North Dakota arrested a Michigan resident in possession of 231 fake oxycodone containing fentanyl. In December 2020, a Detroit resident was arrested at the Erie, Pennsylvania train station with 377 fentanyl pills. Counterfeit pill seizures are also happening in Michigan. **Fake pills containing fentanyl and other drugs have been seized in Detroit, Taylor, Inkster, Argentine Township, and Warren, as well as at Port Huron, Port of Detroit, and Detroit Metro Airport.** The most recently reported deaths were three young people in Auburn Hills who were killed by counterfeit Percocet containing fentanyl.



Michigan is also a destination for other counterfeit drugs.

Between October 2020 and January 2021, U. S. Customs and Border Protection seized over 30,000 imported, counterfeit Viagra pills that were intended for Michigan resellers.



January 2021: Detroit resident arrested in Bismarck, North Dakota with 231 fake oxycodone pills



November 2020: 20-year-old from Lake Orion indicted for providing the counterfeit Percocet made with fentanyl that killed three of his friends.

Counterfeit drugs have also made their way into Michigan medical offices.

Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent warning letters to 77 doctors' offices and practices in the state, warning them to stop purchasing medications from known black-market wholesalers. These warning letters covered a range of medications including drugs to treat cancer and migraines.



Michiganders should not have to worry about whether their medicine is safe, genuine or effective. Protect them by supporting and strengthening the closed U.S. drug supply chain.

COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN MICHIGAN, 2010-2021



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- January 2021:** Police in Bismarck, North Dakota arrested a Detroit man found at a motel in possession of 231 fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl.¹
- December 2020:** A search by police of a Detroit resident outside a train station in Erie, Pennsylvania led to two felony charges and the seizure of 377 fentanyl pills.²
- November 2020:** Prosecutors indicted a 20-year-old Lake Orion man for allegedly supplying the counterfeit Percocet made with fentanyl that killed a teenage girl, a teenage boy, and the boy's 20-year-old brother.³
- August 2020:** The Traverse Narcotics Team seized 200 fentanyl pills along with 100 grams of fentanyl powder and arrested a Detroit resident.⁴
- August 2020:** Roy Feliciano died in Wyoming after ingesting what family members believe was a counterfeit pill made with fentanyl.⁵
- July 2020:** Twenty-year-old Isabelle Sutter died in her apartment in Kent County. Family and friends suspected the young woman had unknowingly been taking fake pills.⁶
- January 2020:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized enough fentanyl at the state's border in 2019 to kill 1.5 million people.⁷
- December 2019:** Shannon D. Hixon of Detroit received a life sentence for selling counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl and the fentanyl powder that killed an Army veteran in Kentucky.⁸
- November 2019:** An agent with the Detroit office of the Drug Enforcement Administration warned the public about finding counterfeit OxyContin and Adderall pills made with fentanyl.⁹
- October 2019:** Police raids in the communities of Taylor and Inkster seized fentanyl pills and other drugs.¹⁰
- September 2019:** Lamar Perdue of Detroit received a 195-month prison sentences for drug distribution. During a search conducted at his arrest, Perdue was found with 1.9 kilos of methamphetamine, 80 grams of fentanyl, and hundreds of unidentified prescription pills.¹¹
- February 2018:** Argentine Township police reported finding counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl.¹²
- June 2017:** State Police and the Department of Homeland Security raided a home on Detroit's east side and a laboratory in Royal Oak that authorities say were involved in making fentanyl.¹³
- June 2017:** Kalamazoo Police seized 35 grams of fentanyl while searching a home after a citizen's tip.¹⁴
- February 2017:** Police warned that the bulk of heroin sold in the mid-Michigan area was cut with fentanyl and that carfentanil had already been discovered in the state.¹⁵
- February 2017:** State Police discovered a fentanyl lab operating out of a home on Detroit's far west side.¹⁶

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to 12 Michigan doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹⁷
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including 26 doctors offices in Michigan, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹⁸
- February–June 2012:** Three Michigan doctors were among the 136 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Altzuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹⁹

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- July 2019:** The Global Trade Task Force seized an estimated \$1 million in counterfeit goods at the Detroit Metro Airport and Port Huron Blue Water Bridge ports, including fake Botox.²⁰
- March 2016:** Twenty-five doctors offices and practices in Michigan were among more than 1,227 doctors nationwide who received warning letters from the FDA to stop buying infusion drugs from TC Medical Group, which sold more than \$33 million worth of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.²¹
- July 2013:** The FDA warned five doctors and medical practices in Michigan to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.²²
- November 2012:** Five Michigan doctors were among the 350 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.²³

OTHER COUNTERFEIT OR MISBRANDED MEDICATIONS AND DEVICES

- January 2021:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized a shipment of 18,540 fake Viagra packed in realistic-looking bottles. The pills were being shipped to a person in Burton, Michigan.²⁴
- October 2020:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized a shipment of 15,000 counterfeit Viagra pills as well as various brands of honey mixed with sildenafil. The shipment came from Turkey and was heading to a Michigan residence.²⁵
- May 2019:** Police seized a pill press along with 75 Vicodin, Adderall, and other drugs during a raid on a suburban Warren home.²⁶
- March 2019:** Counterfeit Xanax was among the \$1 million in counterfeit goods seized by the Global Trade Task Force at Detroit Metro Airport and Port Huron Blue Water Bridge ports of entry.²⁷
- January 2019:** Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized over five pounds of Xanax pills at Port Huron over several days.²⁸
- June 2017:** Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized a pill press at the Port of Detroit.²⁹
- August 2015:** The CEO of Kentwood Pharmacy received a ten-year sentence for his role in supplying Michigan nursing homes and adult foster care homes with misbranded and recycled drugs. Eighteen other employees were also charged in the conspiracy.³⁰
- September 2012:** One Michigan doctor was among the 23 U.S. doctors that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of the osteoporosis injectable medications Prolia and Aclasta from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs.com subsidiary.³¹

Footnotes

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