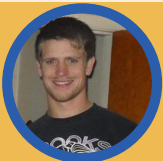


Fake Medicine Hurts the People of Missouri

THE FENTANYL PILL CRISIS HAS NOT SPARED MISSOURI

Counterfeit pills made with fentanyl have been found in every state, and Missouri has not been spared. Law enforcement seized counterfeit fentanyl pills in **Camden County** in February 2021, and in **Jackson County** in September 2020. In March 2020, federal authorities indicted a **St. Louis** man after a search of his home turned up a pill press, fentanyl, and other drugs. In the same month, a 26-year-old in St. Louis died after he took a counterfeit Xanax pill made with fentanyl. These incidents followed several warnings about the pills in 2019, and the dismantling of a fentanyl pill manufacturing operation in **St. Charles** in 2018.



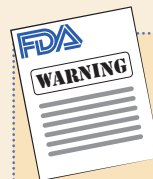
March 2020: A 26-year-old St. Louis man died after ingesting a counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl.



February 2021, Florissant: CBP agents prevented the delivery of a package that contained 41.5 pounds of fake Viagra pills to a resident.



February 2021, Nixa: Owner of three medical clinics indicted for allegedly lying to patients about the contents of an unproven medical treatment.



MEDICINE SOURCED OUTSIDE OF THE SECURE DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN

Doctors and individuals have endangered Missouri patients by illegally importing fake medications into the state. Between 2012 and 2016, the **FDA sent 39 warning letters to doctors' offices and practices** warning them to stop purchasing medicine from known black-market wholesalers.



Missouri residents deserve safe and effective medicine. Protect their health by protecting the U.S. secure drug supply chain.

COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INCIDENTS IN MISSOURI, 2010-2021

BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- February 2021:** Authorities in Camden County arrested and charged two individuals after a search resulted in the seizure of approximately 100 fentanyl pills.¹
- September 2020:** The Jackson County Drug Task Force issued a public warning after seizing 3,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl in the late summer.²
- March 2020:** A St. Louis man was charged by federal complaint after the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Florissant and St. Louis Metropolitan Police Departments found a pill press, fentanyl, and other drugs in his home.³
- March 2020:** 26-year-old Brian Hotop of St. Louis died after ingesting a counterfeit Xanax made with fentanyl.⁴
- December 2019:** The DEA's St. Louis Division issued a warning about counterfeit Xanax and oxycodone made with fentanyl being sold in the greater metropolitan area.⁵
- August 2019:** Law enforcement reported an uptick in counterfeit prescription medications laced with fentanyl in the southeastern part of the state.⁶
- May 2019:** Jonathan Aguilar of St. Charles received a 15-year sentence in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. Search warrants executed in September 2018 turned up two pill presses and fentanyl.⁷
- March 2019:** Gage Lankas of Kansas City received a 15-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to possessing carfentanyl with the intent to distribute. A 17-year-old who ingested half of a fake oxycodone pill Lankas sold suffered a non-fatal overdose in August 2017.⁸
- February 2019:** Police seized "36 oxycodone and fentanyl pills" while executing a search warrant on a house in Joplin.⁹
- August 2018:** Police seized five pounds of fentanyl when they searched a woman at a Kansas City bus station.¹⁰
- May 2018:** Kelly Gant, who grew up in West County, shared the story of taking Xanax pills in high school that ended in an overdose. Tests showed that those pills were fakes made with fentanyl.¹¹
- November 2017:** Police seized 4.8 pounds of raw fentanyl from a driver on I-55 in New Madrid County.¹²
- August 2017:** Joshua Kelly of Cape Girardeau pleaded guilty to selling fentanyl and other drugs on the internet. Kelly manufactured and sold fake oxycodone, Norco, and Xanax pills.¹³
- November 2016:** A Utah-based drug counterfeiting operation shipped a buyer in Missouri 11 fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills.¹⁴

BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- May 2015:** Dr. Mel E. Lucas of St. Louis pleaded guilty to charges related to buying black market oncology drugs.¹⁵
- April 2015:** The FDA warned three Missouri medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.¹⁶
- March 2015:** Dr. Robert L. Carter of Joplin pleaded guilty to purchasing non-FDA approved medications from CanadaDrugs.com.¹⁷ In 2012 and 2013, the FDA warned nine Missouri doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.¹⁸
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, 12 in Missouri, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.¹⁹
- 2012:** Turkish distributor Ozay Pharmaceuticals smuggled counterfeit, misbranded, and adulterated cancer drugs to Chesterfield. Ozay shipped temperature-sensitive cancer treatments with no temperature protection and sold cancer drugs with no active ingredient.²⁰
- February 2012:** Dr. Abid Nisar of St. Louis pleaded guilty to charges related to buying black market oncology drugs.²¹

MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- April 2018:** Canadian pharmacist Nikhil Buhecha received a 36-month sentence after selling counterfeit, misbranded, and adulterated Botox into the U.S., including multiple shipments to two doctors located in St. Louis County.²²
- March 2016:** The FDA warned nine Missouri 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.²³
- December 2013:** Clinic Manager Thomas Greg Martin pleaded guilty to receiving misbranded Botox from a foreign, unlicensed drug wholesaler.²⁴
- November 2013:** Dr. Erick Falconer of St. Louis pleaded guilty to charges related to buying black market Botox.²⁵ Falconer was one of six Missouri practitioners (233 across the country) warned for buying fraudulent Botox in July 2013.²⁶

OTHER DRUGS

- February 2021:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized over 41 pounds of pills to treat erectile dysfunction along with 36 pounds of honey that contained sildenafil in a shipment from Turkey bound for Florissant.²⁷
- February 2021:** A federal grand jury indicted a state legislator on fraud charges for allegedly promoting a treatment at her clinic as containing stem cells that could treat various diseases such as erectile dysfunction, Lyme disease, and urinary incontinence.²⁸
- May 2019:** Larry Weeden of St. Louis received a 151-month prison sentence after a search of an apartment turned up methamphetamine - in both powder and pill form - and fentanyl powder.²⁹
- January 2016:** St. Louis doctor, Michael "Ted" Mimlitz, pleaded guilty to charges related to distributing black market human growth hormone.³⁰
- April 2012:** Benny Carmi and Moshe Dahan pleaded guilty to and were sentenced for smuggling more than 9,000 separate shipments of counterfeit, subpotent drugs into the U.S., including to customers in Missouri.³¹
- October 2010:** St. Louis resident Mark Hughes pleaded guilty to selling thousands of counterfeit erectile dysfunction pills.³²

Footnotes

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