PSM PILL PRESS UPDATE, JANUARY-JUNE 2025

ILLICIT PILL PRESSES ARE AN ENGINE FOR COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE PRODUCTION,

fueling counterfeit prescription pills made with fentanyl or methamphetamine. They're also the fundamental tool required to make all counterfeit pills—whether that's fake blood thinners with no active ingredient, substandard Viagra, or bootlegged anxiety medicine made with non-FDAapproved benzodiazepines.

Since we started tracking in 2019, illicit pill presses have been reported in 42 states (in pink).





A pill press and supplies seized in February 2025, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts

NOTEWORTHY CASES

An Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) investigation in Massachusetts led to an arrest in February, as well as the seizure of over 16 kilograms of counterfeit controlled substance pills, five kilograms of narcotics, and other drug paraphernalia, including <u>a commercial</u> <u>pill press and more than 50 pill dies</u> with designs to counterfeit Percoet, Xanax, Adderall and others.

Prosecutors are also trying to stop the flow of pill presses into the country. In May, the attorneys in Texas <u>unsealed an</u> <u>April 23 indictment against CapsulCN</u> <u>International Co. Ltd., and three Chinese</u> <u>nationals</u> for allegedly illegally importing pill-making equipment. A fourth company employee <u>pleaded guilty</u> to similar charges in April.

Follow our feed of ongoing pill press news.

Pill press equipment forfeiture records, Jan-May 2025



INTERDICTION

Forfeiture records for the first half of 2025 show that between January and the end of May, Customs and Border Protection across 11 states intercepted 32 intact pill presses, seven encapsulation machines, nine packages of pill press parts, and 28 packages containing over 300 pill dies.

LEGISLATION

As of June 30, the sole bill in Congress addressing pill presses is <u>H.R. 1100</u>, The Stop the Opioid Pill Presser and Fentanyl (STOPP) Act, which would serialize and track

the movement of pill press machinery, encapsulating machines and their critical parts. The bill was introduced in February and has not left committee.

Additional bills are being considered in Massachusetts (1 | 2), <u>New York</u>, and <u>Oregon</u> to specifically criminalize possessing, purchasing, delivering, selling, or intending to sell or deliver a pill press, encapsulating machine, drug molds, or controlled substance counterfeiting materials knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that they will be used to make controlled or counterfeit controlled substances.

POLICY: GOOGLE TO BLOCK PROMOTION FOR PILL PRESSES ON ADS AND SHOPPING PLATFORMS

On July 1, Google announced that it was updating its dangerous products and services policy to restrict the promotion of pill presses, encapsulating machines and components they use, such as dies, molds and stamps used to create or imprint pills. The change will affect the Google Ads and Google Shopping platforms starting in September 2025, with six weeks until full implementation.

Next update: July-December 2025 data will be reported in January 2026.

To learn more about pill presses refer to our pill press page at https://safedr.ug/IllegalPillPresses



