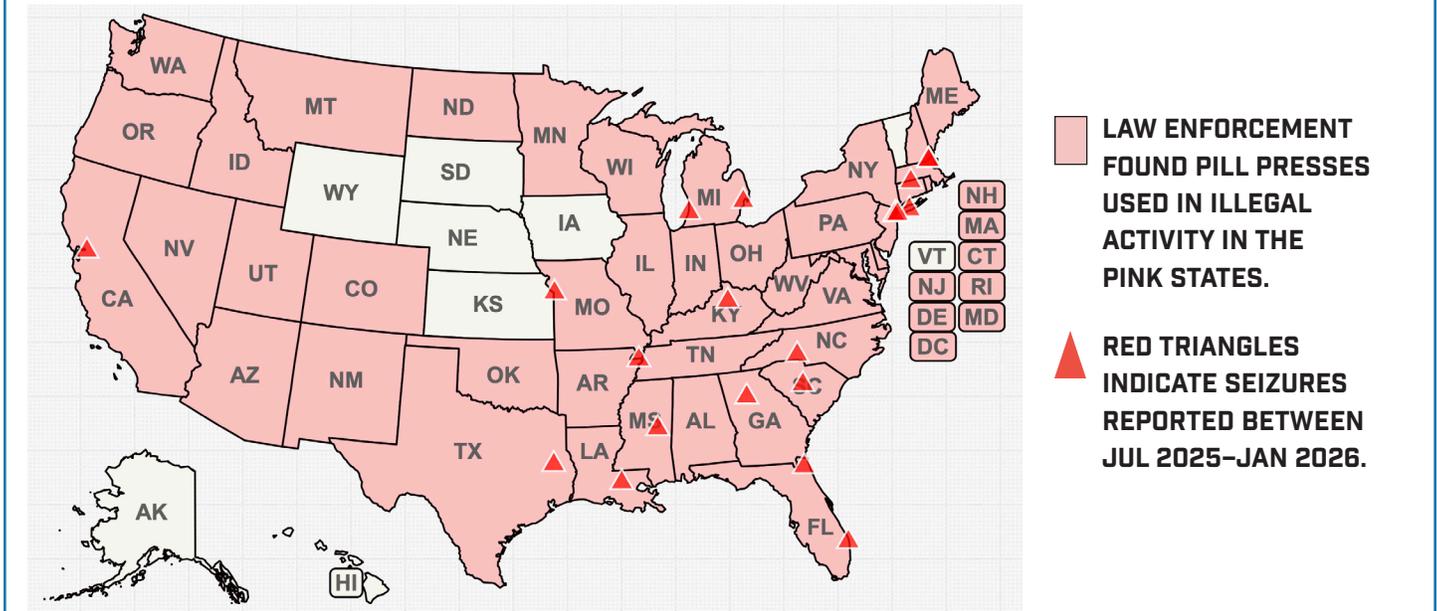


# PSM PILL PRESS UPDATE, JULY 2025–JANUARY 2026

Illicit pill presses are an engine for counterfeit medicine production, creating fake prescription pills with synthetic opioids or methamphetamine, blood thinners, substandard Viagra, and bootlegged anxiety medicine made with non-FDA-approved benzodiazepines.

SINCE 2019, ILLICIT PILL PRESSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN 42 STATES AND IN WASHINGTON D.C.



## NOTEWORTHY CASES



Authorities shut down at least 21 pill press operations between July 2025 and January 2026, including four in the New York metropolitan area. In January 2026, law enforcement seized [three pill presses](#), [counterfeit pill molds](#) and kilogram quantities of illicit drugs in a residence across from a public school in Queens.

Xiaofei Chen’s prosecution for selling pill presses and pill dies to people using them for illicit controlled substances ended in a [52-month federal prison sentence](#) in October 2025. U.S. attorneys in Texas continue to pursue Chen’s employer, [CapsulCN International Co. Ltd.](#), and three of her colleagues.

 FOLLOW OUR ONGOING FEED OF [PILL PRESS NEWS](#).

 *The Partnership for*  
**SAFEMEDICINES®**

Feb. 2026



## THIRD-PARTY PILL PRESS SALES

Third party platforms are working to suppress unregulated pill press sales. U.S. sales of pill presses and die molds are forbidden on [Amazon](#), [eBay](#), and [Alibaba](#). Google changed its policies to [restrict pill presses and related equipment from Google’s Ads and Shopping listings](#) last year. They [reaffirmed the ban](#) when MassLive journalist Hadley Barndollar picked up PSM’s research about [compliance problems](#) in January.

**Unlike its competitors, Facebook marketplace does not specifically ban the sale of pill presses**, and searching U.S. locales chosen at random yielded a number of listings for second-hand pill presses.

Marketplace  
Search results  
Q lfa tablet press  
Notify Me  
+ Create new listing

Filters  
Marco Island, Florida · Within 40 mi  
Sort by  
Price

 \$1 TDP Desktop Tablet Press Pompano Beach, FL	 \$15,000 16 station Manesty Beta Tablet press Hialeah, FL	 \$350 Vice handheld pill press Land O Lakes, FL	 \$110,000 Fette 2090 Tablet Press Size B tooling with safe line metal detector and a... Hollywood, FL
---	--	---	--

See more examples of pill presses on third-party platforms here: [HTTPS://SAFEDR.UG/PILL-PRESS-JAN-2026](https://safedr.ug/pill-press-jan-2026)

## INTERDICTION

Faster removal of records online prevented us from making a comprehensive comparison between forfeitures from the first half of 2025 to the second. Available records, however, showed that customs seized five pill presses, one capsule-filling machine, 67 ambiguously-labeled pill press machinery and parts, and over 500 pill dies across 10 states.

In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration reported seizing “[more than two dozen pill press machines](#)” in connection with the Fentanyl Free America initiative in October 2025, and PSM found press reports of 24 pill presses seized in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

## LEGISLATION

[S2870, the Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act](#) would require serialization of pill presses, punches, and dies that authorities investigating counterfeit pill production could track them. A [parallel bill](#) was introduced in the House in October 2025. Neither bill has left committee.

The [Preventing Rogue Equipment for Synthetic Substances \(PRESS\) Act](#), would criminalize the importation of precursor chemicals and pill-making equipment for the manufacture of controlled substances.

The [Illinois](#), Massachusetts ([1](#) | [2](#)), and [New York](#) state legislatures continue to consider bills to 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.

**NEXT UPDATE: FEBRUARY-JULY DATA WILL BE REPORTED IN AUGUST 2026.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT PILL PRESSES AT:  
[HTTPS://SAFEDR.UG/ILLEGALPILLPRESSES](https://safedr.ug/illegalpillpresses)

