

The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Alaska



**December 2016:
The state crime lab
announced the discovery
of counterfeit oxycodone
containing fentanyl**

The country has seen an upsurge in counterfeit prescription pills masquerading as painkillers and Xanax. These pills are disguised as real medications but made with **deadly fentanyl or its even deadlier variants**, and even **a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes** of ingesting it.

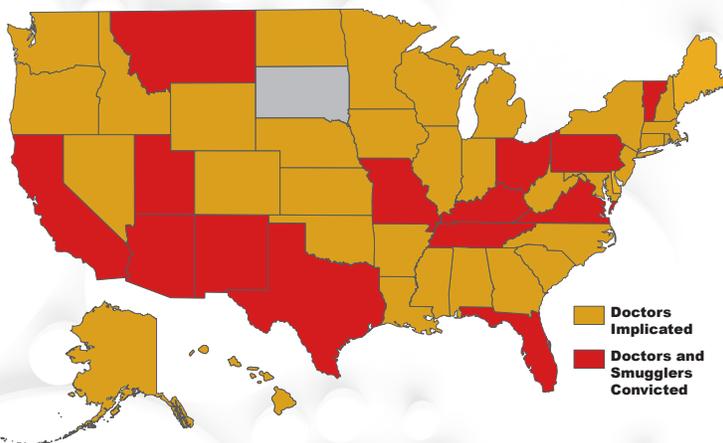
Fentanyl is a serious threat to Alaskans. In December 2016, the **state crime lab confirmed the presence of fentanyl in a counterfeit oxycodone pill**. Fentanyl has been found in the Lower 48, and it also threatens our Canadian neighbors. In April 2017, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Whitehorse, Yukon confiscated 535 counterfeit pills that tested positive for fentanyl.

5 Alaska Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

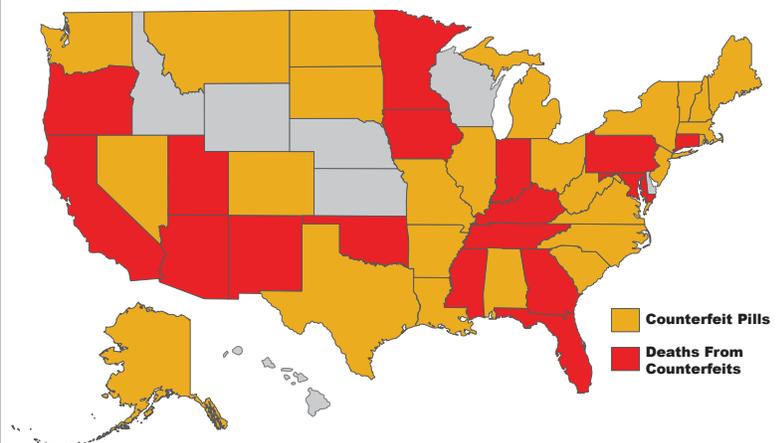
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Alaska as well. 5 different medical practices in Alaska have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

Opening the U.S.'s closed drug supply chain puts Alaskan lives at risk of serious injury or death.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis



Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths



Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations in Alaska (2012–2018)

Based on reported investigations.

Note that each investigation could have affected hundreds of Alaska residents.

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Made With Fentanyl in Alaska and Nearby Canada

- January 2018:** Yukon's chief coroner confirmed eight deaths to date in the territory involving fentanyl with a further 20 cases waiting on toxicology test results.¹
- January 2018:** Public health officers in British Columbia confirmed over 1,900 people died there since they declared an opioid crisis less than two years ago. Toxicology tests showed fentanyl was present in 80% of deaths in 2017.²
- May 2017:** Police in Anchorage confirmed that three people who died in April tested positive for both heroin and fentanyl with another eight overdoses waiting on toxicology reports.³
- April 2017:** The first official seizure of fake fentanyl pills by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Yukon occurred in the Whitehorse area. When examined in the lab, the 535 pills found in a suspicious package tested positive for fentanyl.⁴
- January 2017:** The state crime lab tested and confirmed the presence of fentanyl in a counterfeit oxycodone.⁵

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

- 2012–2013:** In 2012 and 2013, the FDA warned three Alaskan doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.⁶

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

- March 2016:** The FDA warned two Alaskan 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.⁷

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1. "Yukon has backlog of 20 deaths waiting for toxicology results," *CBC News*, January 12, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2mVs3D3>.
 2. Natasha Frakes, "Fentanyl test strips need to get into the hands of users on the streets, says public health officer," *CBC News*, January 18, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2rrfBjk>.
 3. Laurel Andrews "Fentanyl found in 3 recent overdose deaths in Anchorage," *Anchorage Daily News*, December 2, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DoqGad>.
 4. "Yukon RCMP confirm their first seizure of fentanyl in territory," *CBC News*, August 16, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2mQo6LV>.
 5. Anna Hillman, "Counterfeit prescription drug found in Alaska contained fentanyl," *Alaska Public Media*, January 4, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2mR8VoK>.
 6. "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs, 2012–2014," US Food and Drug Administration, last updated June 12, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
 7. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated August 17, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.