

# US warns Americans fake pills contain deadly fentanyl

September 27 2021

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

US authorities on Monday warned Americans to not buy prescription pills online because they increasingly include lethal doses of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said the advice applied to counterfeit medicine made to look like real Oxycontin, Vicodin and Xanax or Adderall.

Fake pills are widely available on [social media](#) and e-commerce platforms.

"Counterfeit pills that contain these dangerous and extremely addictive drugs are more lethal and more accessible than ever before," said DEA administrator Anne Milgram in a statement.

"In fact, DEA lab analyses reveal that two out of every five fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially [lethal dose](#)."

The rare public advisory—the first since 2015—comes as US drug overdose deaths soared to 93,000 last year, the highest ever level.

Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver of the rise, the DEA said.

Overdoses involving methamphetamine, increasingly found to be pressed into counterfeit tablets, are another factor.

More than 9.5 million counterfeit pills were seized so far this year, more than the last two years combined.

The vast majority were produced in Mexico, with China supplying chemicals for manufacturing fentanyl in Mexico.

© 2021 AFP

Citation: US warns Americans fake pills contain deadly fentanyl (2021, September 27) retrieved 16 April 2023 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-09-americans-fake-pills-deadly-fentanyl.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.