ONE PILL CAN KILL

Department of Justice | Drug Enforcement Administration

FAKE PILLS FACT SHEET

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

DEA LAB TESTING REVEALS THAT

6 OUT OF EVERY 10 PILLS

WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A POTENTIALLY

LETHAL DOSE

Fake pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before.

DEA officials report a dramatic rise in the number of fake pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a potentially lethal dose.

Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. In 2021, 107,622 people died by drug poisoning in the United States.

Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in fake pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in poisoning deaths.

Criminal drug networks are flooding the U.S. with deadly fake pills.

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Fake pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone.
- Many fake pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).

AUTHENTIC
oxycodone
M30 tablets

***FAKE**
oxycodone M30 tablets
containing fentanyl

For more information about fake pills, go to **DEA.gov/OnePill**

Data as of December 2022

**Photos of fake pills do not represent all available fake pills.*

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Fake pills are widely available across every state in the Country.

- DEA and its law enforcement partners are seizing deadly fake pills at record rates.
- Fake pills have been seized in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Drug trafficking is also inextricably linked with violence.

In 2022, DEA seized more than 50.6 million

50,600,000

fake pills often laced with fentanyl

-more than double the amount of fentanyl pills seized in 2021-

The only safe medications are ones that come from licensed and accredited medical professionals.

DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal.

For more information about fake pills, go to **DEA.gov/OnePill**

Data as of December 2022

The Drug Enforcement Administration ensures the safety and health of the American public by fighting against violent criminal drug networks and foreign cartels trafficking in illicit drugs. To accomplish that mission, the Drug Enforcement Administration employs approximately 10,000 men and women throughout the world—Special Agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists—across more than 250 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and more than 90 foreign offices in nearly 70 countries.