

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  
**5 OUT OF EVERY 10 PILLS**  
WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A POTENTIALLY  
**LETHAL DOSE**



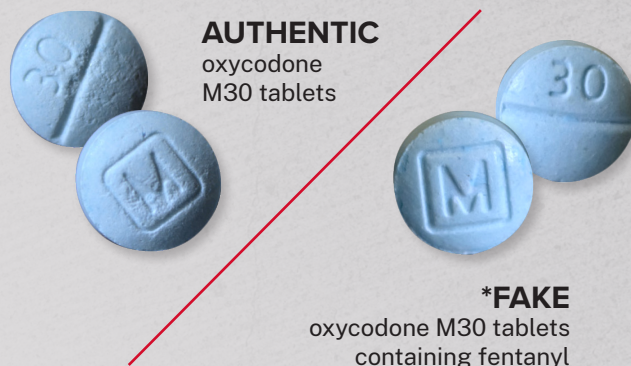
Fake pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before. Just 2 mg of fentanyl is considered a potentially lethal dose.

Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. In 2023, an estimated 107,543 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 number of 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®).



For more information about fake pills, go to [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Data as of October 2024



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





**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 2023, DEA seized more than 80 million fentanyl pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl.
- The 2023 seizures are equivalent to more than 390 million lethal doses of fentanyl.
- Visit [www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov) for the latest DEA fentanyl seizures.



**Learn More**



**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](http://DEA.gov/OnePill)**

Data as of October 2024



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 240 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and more than 90 foreign offices in nearly 70 countries.