

ADDICTIVE AND DEADLY

Each day, thousands upon thousands of fake, look-a-like prescription pills are flooding into the United States. Many of these pills are made to look *exactly* like commonly abused pain medications such as hydrocodone, OxyContin and others.

Over-prescribing has led to tons of pain medication in our communities. People, addicted to these powerful drugs, turn to the streets when their legal prescription runs out. Drug dealers, always looking to make a buck, have turned to cheaper more potent chemicals to create counterfeit pills and keep their supply, their profit and their users high.

Here's the problem: these fake pills usually contain fentanyl, a highly potent and deadly synthetic opioid. Users think they are taking one thing - heroin, pain or anxiety pills, cocaine or any street drug - but what they actually get may be up to 50 or 100 times more powerful. These look-a-like pills often land users in hospital emergency rooms or worse.

This is why these fake pills get the nickname "kill pills."

FAKE PILLS = REAL RISKS

There are a number of risks with abusing real prescription drugs, but the risks with abusing counterfeit prescription drugs is through the roof. A person who takes a pill that didn't come directly from a pharmacy **has absolutely no idea what is in it**, and is putting their life at risk.

Counterfeit pills are everywhere and it's a growing problem. Deaths from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are skyrocketing. In the last four years, the number of deaths has increased over 540%!

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Paranoia	Withdrawal
Depression	Brain damage
Physical Dependence	Organ failure
Addiction	Overdose
	Death

Prescription pain medication abuse is the leading cause of an ongoing opioid epidemic. Over 100 people a day die from an opioid overdose.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about how to stay safe, go to:

Food and Drug Administration
fda.gov

Centers for Disease Control
cdc.gov

in the know

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COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

KILL PILLS





ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE

Opioids, found in some pain medication and illegal drugs like heroin, are highly addictive. Synthetic opioids, fentanyl and other analogues (slightly changed copies of the original drug) are more powerful and even more addictive. Being addicted to opioids means always looking for the next high. This is because once a person is addicted, coming off of the drug is a very painful process called withdrawal.

Overdose happens when a user gets too much opioids in their body. The drugs slow down breathing and other body functions. Take too much and breathing stops. If the user isn't given an anti-opioid rescue drug they die.

Sadly, these overdose deaths happen all the time, every day.

A recent example in California shows how fake drugs create real dangers for users. A number of people purchased what they thought to be hydrocodone pills on the street. The pills turned out to contain fentanyl, 50 times more potent than heroin. Some 40 people overdosed and of those 40 victims, 9 lost their lives.

HIDDEN DANGERS

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

- Empty pill bottles or drug paraphernalia
- Difficulty breathing or no breathing
- Lack of coordination and balance
- Vomiting
- Passed out and is unresponsive

OVERDOSE DANGERS

- Permanent damage to organs
- Difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting & diarrhea
- Loss of consciousness
- Coma, seizures or death

IF SOMEONE HAS OVERDOSED...

If you're around someone who has overdosed, quickly give them first aid and get medical help right away. Let medical personnel know what drug the person took. If possible, save samples of the drug or the person's vomit to help save his or her life.



UNKNOWN CHEMICALS

THE DANGER OF FENTANYL

In many cases, fake prescription drugs are cut with fentanyl or other synthetic opioids like Carfentanil or "Pink" (U-47700). Fentanyl is an extremely powerful medication used for surgeries or to treat major pain from cancer. It can be fatal in tiny doses. Since buyers of these fake pills don't know about the added fentanyl, they take their normal dose. But what they've actually taken might be 50 to 100 times stronger and trigger a deadly overdose.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING...

The supplies to create these pills are not hard to come by. A multi-million dollar fentanyl lab located in a suburban Utah basement had over 500,000 pills seized that were labeled as OxyContin and Xanax. The pills contained only fentanyl.

These pills often come professionally packaged, are the same color and are stamped with the same logo and markings as their real counterparts. They can look just like the real thing. Even trained pharmacists often have trouble picking the real pills from the fake ones.

These fakes can look like any legitimate medication, from painkillers like Percocet, OxyContin, Vicodin and Norco to sedatives like Xanax. The bottom



line is that there is no foolproof way to distinguish fake medications from the real ones. Whether the source is the dealer on the corner, a kid at school or an offshore online pharmacy, you can never be truly sure what is in that pill.

Counterfeit drugs represent real danger and the only way to protect yourself is to avoid them altogether. If someone offers you what looks like a prescription painkiller, politely turn down the offer and walk away. If you are thinking about buying drugs on the "dark web," know that the drugs are probably created in unregulated labs in foreign countries, and that there is no guarantee that what you're buying won't kill you.

FATAL OVERDOSES

AVOID "KILL PILLS" - DON'T TAKE WHAT ISN'T PRESCRIBED TO YOU.

Counterfeit pills look so much like their real counterparts, the only way to tell the difference is chemical analysis or in a coroner's report.