

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018
WASHINGTON BALLROOM



RADARS® SYSTEM INTERNATIONAL PRE-SYMPOSIUM



International Landscape of Prescription Medication Misuse

The Growing Nexus Between NARCOS and Counterfeit Medicines

John Burke & J. Aaron Graham

May 9, 2018



NABP RELEASE NEW REPORT FINDS 10,823 FAKE ONLINE PHARMACIES ACCORDING TO LATEST FINDINGS



The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy also examines the role that fake online pharmacies are playing in distributing counterfeit pain pills laced with fentanyl.

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The NABP reviewed 11,299 Internet websites offering prescription medication for sale, and discovered that 10,823 (95.8%) were found to be operating out of compliance with state and federal laws and/or NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards.”

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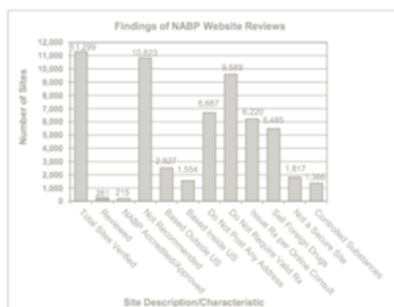
The NABP report also addressed the recent rash of drug overdoses caused by counterfeit pain medications laced with fentanyl. Citing the possibility that these fake medications could be easily purchased online, the note that “in the past eight years, NABP has identified over 1,300 illegally operating websites that sell controlled substances, or 12.6% of the 10,823 identified by NABP to be operating illegally.”

Through their AWARERX campaign, the NABP seeks to assist patients in acquiring the medication they need from safe online sources. For more information, please visit <https://awarerx.pharmacy/>





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By ARMEN KETHEYIAN CBS NEWS March 21, 2012, 12:15 PM

How fake Avastin from overseas ends up in U.S.

(CBS News) Back in February, the FDA issued a warning about vials of a popular cancer drug that turned out to be fakes. The vials labeled "Avastin" contained a liquid that was worthless. Who would sell a fake drug to cancer patients and where the counterfeit vials came from? CBS News chief investigative correspondent Armen Keteyian followed the trail.

“As many as 19 medical practices in the US purchased a version of Avastin that turned out to be from outside this country and contained no active ingredients.”

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"Counterfeit drugs is a huge problem in the United States," said Carmen Catizone, executive director of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. "The estimates are that \$75 billion worth of sales of counterfeit drugs occur annually."

How did the fake Avastin reach doctors' offices here in America? CBS News followed the trail. The counterfeit Avastin was sold by a company known as Montana Healthcare Solutions. It offered 400-milligram vials for just under \$2,000 -- about \$400 less than the manufacturer's price.

One source told CBS News that when doctors called the company originally registered to an address in Montana, their calls were routed to an office complex in the Caribbean nation of Barbados, where CBS news has learned that Montana Healthcare Solutions is owned and operated.

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Avastin is a lifeline in the fight against cancer. Five million vials were sold in the U.S. last year.

"We use Avastin in combination with other chemotherapy," said Dr. James Speyer, head of the NYU Langone Cancer Center. "In some of these colon, lung and renal cancers, it significantly changes the rate of response and may change survival."

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Mexican Hospitals Treated Children With Counterfeit Chemotherapy Drugs

January 26, 2017



An investigation into the corruption of former Governor Javier Duarte has uncovered allegations that children with cancer were treated in state-run hospitals in Veracruz with counterfeit chemotherapy medicines due to budget shortfalls and lack of resources caused by his administration. The BBC reports, that when tested, the counterfeit chemotherapy drugs came back as an inert compound. Essentially, it was distilled water.

Current Governor Miguel Angel Yunes Linares said, “This seems to us a brutal crime, an attempt against the lives of the children.” Authorities have lab tests results that were performed by Roche Laboratories dating back to 2010 to prove the use of fake chemotherapy

“there were at least eight cases of children that could have survived cancer had they received treatment with legitimate chemotherapy medicines.”

complaints from doctors and nurses about the purchase of counterfeit chemotherapy medicine.

Mexico News Daily also notes that after he left office, Nemi Dib filed a freedom-of-information request and found that there were at least eight cases of children that could have survived cancer had they had received treatment with legitimate chemotherapy medicines. The former official said that the children had died in a state-run cancer clinic in Xalapa, andd.

<http://www.safemedicines.org/2017/01/mexican-hospitals-treated-children-with-counterfeit-chemotherapy-drugs.html>

Surge in illegal sales of drugs as gangs exploit 'phenomenal market' online

The rise of social media and greater internet access through smartphones are factors behind a huge rise in illicit sales of pharmaceuticals, according to the chief enforcement official at Britain's medicines regulator.

Criminal gangs have become adept at using social media to sell "lifestyle" drugs to a mass market at minimal risk and cost, said Alastair Jeffrey, head of enforcement at the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This year, he said the MHRA had seized 1.2m doses of illegally supplied

"In 2010, the World Customs Organisation estimated that the global market for counterfeit drugs was worth \$200bn."

Many gangs operate through websites that claim to be bona fide online pharmacies. They focus on medicines that people might be reluctant to discuss with their GP or pharmacist, such as Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs, as well as slimming pills and hair loss treatments. Sales of anabolic steroids for bodybuilders and cognitive enhancers, some of which have not been tested in humans, are booming.

"This is something we are looking at now in a serious way. There is a phenomenal market out there," said Jeffrey, a former detective chief superintendent who ran the Met's child abuse investigation command centre. "Smartphones have allowed people greater access to the internet, and all of a sudden this accessibility, combined with social media, has made a significant difference in how criminals reach consumers."

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"The combined heroin and cocaine markets are worth \$160bn."

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Dangerous Counterfeit Medication Trend Growing in LA County



“Esmeralda Mendez was grieving her sister, who bought unlicensed pharmaceutical medication as an affordable alternative and died within hours of taking the drugs.”



Coroners Case Report

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		CASE REPORT		EDRS# 2610568		DEPARTMENT OF CORONER	
1	APPARENT MODE UNDETERMINED					CASE NO 2013-02098	
	SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES					CRYPT 68	
LAST, FIRST MIDDLE MENDEZ CASTILLO, MYRNA							
ADDRESS 724 WEST LOUIS STREET							
CITY LONG BEACH							
STATE CA							
ZIP 90805							
SEX FEMALE	RACE HISPANIC/LATINO	DOB 9/14/1972	AGE 40	HGT 65 in.	WGT 193 lbs.	EYES BROWN	HAIR BROWN
TEETH UNKNOWN		FACIAL HAIR NONE		ID VIEW Yes	CONDITION POOR CONDITION		
MARK TYPE MARK LOCATION MARK DESCRIPTION							
DATE 3/18/2013 TIME 10:13							
SSN	DL ID	STATE	PENDING BY				
ID METHOD BODY VIEWED AT HOSPITAL							
LA #	MAIN #	CII #	FBI #	MILITARY #	POB MEXICO		
IDENTIFIED BY NAME (PRINT) ESMERALDA MENDEZ		RELATIONSHIP SISTER		PHONE (424) 264-7179	DATE 3/18/2013 TIME 10:13		
PLACE OF DEATH / PLACE FOUND HOSPITAL		ADDRESS OR LOCATION 1000 WEST CARSON STREET		CITY TORRANCE	ZIP 90502		
PLACE OF INJURY PRIVATE RESIDENCE		AT WORK No	DATE 3/17/2013	TIME	LOCATION OR ADDRESS UNKNOWN, .		ZIP
DOB 3/18/2013	TIME 10:13	FOUND OR PRONOUNCED BY DOCTOR KHARVANDA					
OTHER AGENCY INV. OFFICER LAPD HARBOR - DET. D. ALVAREZ # 31339		PHONE (310) 726-7700		REPORT NO.	NOTIFIED BY NO		
TRANSPORTED BY AISHA N. SCOTT		TO LOS ANGELES FSC		DATE 3/19/2013		TIME 13:15	
FINGERPRINTS?	Yes	CLOTHING	No	PA RPT	Yes	MORTUARY	
MED. EV.	No	INVEST. PHOTO #	21	SEAL TYPE	NOT SEALED	HOSP RPT	Yes
PHYS. EV.	Yes	EVIDENCE LOG	Yes	PROPERTY?	No	HOSP CHART	Yes
SUICIDE NOTE	No	GSR NO		RCPT. NO.	262643	PF NO.	2545395
<p>SYNOPSIS</p> <p>ON 03-15-2013, THE DECEDENT (A 40 YEAR-OLD HISPANIC FEMALE) COMPLAINED OF PAIN TO HER BACK AND RIGHT LEG. SOMETIME DURING THE MORNING OF 03-17-2013, THE DECEDENT'S SISTER DROVE THE DECEDENT TO AN UNKNOWN PRIVATE RESIDENCE TO SEE A "LUIS TORREZ." TORREZ GAVE THE DECEDENT AN INJECTION OF SUBSTANCES NAMED DOLONEUROBION AND DIPROSPAN. AFTER THE DECEDENT RECEIVED THE INJECTION, SHE COMPLAINED OF FEELING DIZZY AND NAUSEOUS. THE DECEDENT'S SISTER TRANSPORTED THE DECEDENT INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER ON 03-17-2013 AT APPROXIMATELY 2335 HOURS. SHE PRESENTED WITH DISSEMINATED INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION, INTERNAL BLEEDING, SEPTIC SHOCK, PULSELESS ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY / ARREST, ANION GAP ACIDOSIS, AND AN ALTERED MENTAL STATUS. THE DECEDENT WAS INTUBATED, HAD A "QUINTON" PLACEMENT STATUS POST DIALYSIS, A MASSIVE TRANSFUSION PROTOCOL, A CHEST RADIOGRAPH, AND A HEAD COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN. WHILE THE DECEDENT REMAINED IN THE HOSPITAL, HER HEART RATE "PROGRESSIVELY SLOWED" AND THEN SHE BECAME PULSELESS. THE DECEDENT'S DEATH WAS PRONOUNCED ON 03-18-2013 AT 1013 HOURS BY DOCTOR KHARVANDA. ACCORDING TO FAMILY MEMBERS, THE DECEDENT HAD NO OTHER KNOWN MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. SHE DID NOT HAVE ANY PREVIOUS ACCIDENTS, FALLS, OR SURGERIES, AND SHE DID NOT ABUSE DRUGS, SHE SMOKED ON OCCASION, AND SHE DRANK ON OCCASION AS WELL. THE DECEDENT HAD BEEN TAKING NAPROXEN AND SLEEPING PILLS FOR PAIN BEFORE HER DEATH. DETECTIVE D. ALVAREZ # 31339 OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT, HARBOR/HOMICIDE DIVISION HAS REQUESTED A TWO-HOUR EXAMINATION NOTIFICATION. PLEASE SEE CASE NOTES FOR HIS CONTACT INFORMATION.</p>							
3RIAN KIM 602036 				DATE 3/21/2013	REVIEWED BY 	DATE 3/21/13	
INVESTIGATOR				TIME 22:38	TIME		
FORM #3 NARRATIVE TO FOLLOW? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							

15

AUTOPSY CLASS: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ Examination Only D

☐ FAMILY OBJECTION TO AUTOPSY

Date: 3-22-13 Time: 8:15 Dr. Louis A. Penz
(Print)

FINAL ON: 7-10-13 By: Louis A. Penz
(Print)

APPROXIMATE
INTERVAL
BETWEEN
ONSET
AND
DEATH

2013-02098
SENDEZ, MYRNA
UND

68

DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: (Enter only one cause per line for A, B, C, and D)

IMMEDIATE CAUSE:

(A) Undetermined after autopsy and toxicology studies

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(B)

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(C)

DUE TO

(D)

OTHER CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING BUT NOT RELATED TO THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH:

☐ NATURAL

☐ SUICIDE

☐ HOMICIDE

☐ ACCIDENT

☒ COULD NOT BE DETERMINED OR 7-10-13

If other than natural causes,
HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? Unknown

VERIFICATION OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION STATED ABOVE: ☐ YES ☒ NO

TYPE OF SURGERY:

DATE:

Age: 40 Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female

PRIOR EXAMINATION REVIEW BY DME

☒ CLOTHING
☒ FLUORO
☒ MED. RECORDS

☒ DECOMPOSED, Early
☐ > 24 HRS IN HOSPITAL
☐ OTHER: _____ (Reason)

TYPING SPECIMEN

TYPING SPECIMEN TAKEN BY: Louis A. Penz
SOURCE: Heart

TOXICOLOGY SPECIMEN

COLLECTED BY: Louis A. Penz
☒ HEART BLOOD ☒ STOMACH CONTENTS
☒ FEMORAL BLOOD ☒ VITREOUS
TECHNIQUE: External
☐ BLOOD ☐ SPLEEN
☐ BLOOD ☐ KIDNEY
☒ BILE
☒ LIVER
☐ URBINE

DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:

“Undetermined after autopsy and toxicology studies.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Why Drug Runners Love the U.S. Postal Service

Fentanyl in your mailbox? International rules prevent the USPS from cracking down on illegal suppliers.



By ARTHUR HERMAN and JOHN P. WALTERS

40 COMMENTS

“When you think of drug trafficking, the neighborhood mailman probably isn’t what springs to mind.”

Postal Service is unwittingly facilitating the spread of illicit pharmaceuticals—at

“the US Postal Service is unwittingly facilitating the spread of illicit pharmaceuticals – at taxpayers’ expense.”

service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have been overwhelmed by the size and

“Last year the consulting firm LegitScript did 29 test buys from illegal online pharmacies...”

How bad is it? Last year the consulting firm LegitScript did 29 test buys from illegal online pharmacies. From illicit dealers, most originating in India, was sent through a

“...all were delivered by the USPS. Customs didn’t stop or intercept any of them.”

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Man Sentenced For Selling Viagra Illegally Over Net

Posted: 5:13AM, Jan 21, 2005



A San Diego man who ran an Internet pharmacy Web site from which customers could order prescription drugs such as Viagra without a valid prescription was sentenced Friday to 51 months in federal prison.

Mark Anthony Kolowich, 45, the owner of World Express Rx, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to sell counterfeit pharmaceuticals, conspiracy to commit mail fraud and smuggle pharmaceuticals, and conspiracy to launder money. In a related case in Florida, Kolowich pleaded guilty to conspiring to import unapproved drugs into the United

conspiring to import unapproved drugs into the United States, introducing such drugs in interstate commerce and smuggling unapproved drugs into the United States.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Miller called Kolowich the "kingpin" and "architect" of an illicit pharmaceutical ring that recruited many others to smuggle drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border at San Ysidro.

"There's an old saying, 'You need to put the pill where the pain is,'" Miller said in imposing sentence.

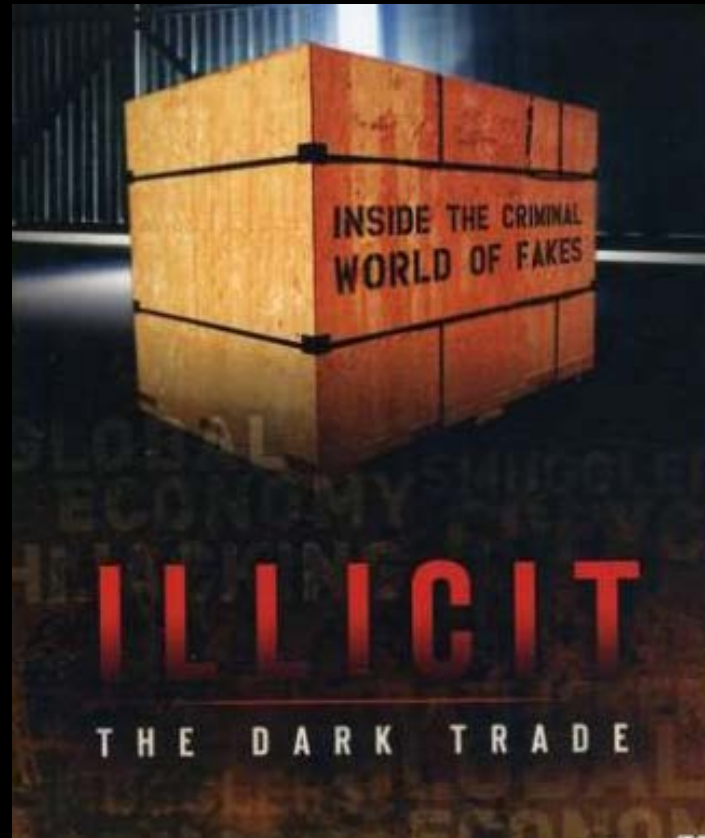
"U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Miller called Kolowich the 'kingpin' and 'architect' of an illicit pharmaceutical ring that recruited many others to smuggle drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border at San Ysidro."

The World Express Web site directed the customer to fill out a health questionnaire, and pay a \$35 fee for a doctor's consultation.

The Web site falsely represented that a doctor would review the questionnaire and issue a lawful prescription before the drugs were shipped to the customers, prosecutors said. However, there was no doctor employed by, or otherwise associated with, World Express Rx, to review the questionnaires. The drugs were then packaged by co-conspirators and sent to 60,000 customers throughout the United States and the world.

ILLCIT

THE DARK TRADE



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

ILLCIT

THE DARK TRADE



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

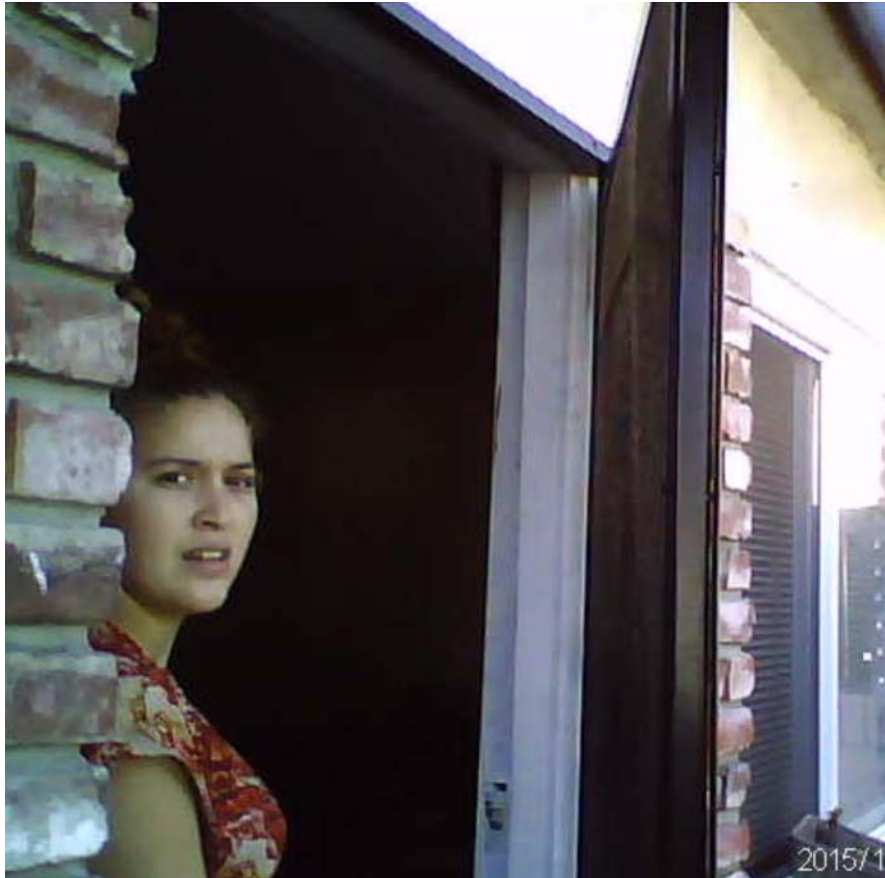
Illegal Rx medicines sold on the Internet via Social Media



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DEA: More than 30 Maricopa County deaths linked to cartel-made drugs

Garrett Mitchell, The Republic | azcentral.com

Published 7:00 p.m. MT March 21, 2017



More than 30 fatalities in Maricopa County were caused by a deadly substance laced in fake prescription drugs that entered Arizona through Mexico, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Tuesday.

The 32 confirmed overdose deaths in the county, recorded from May 2015 to February 2017, were reportedly from black-market pills laced with illegally made fentanyl, a powerful opioid said to be 100 times stronger than morphine. Though pharmaceutical fentanyl is legal in the United States for treatment of cancer patients with severe chronic pain, illicitly manufactured versions of the synthetic opioid are often mixed with heroin or cocaine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated.

“The DEA Heroin Enforcement Action team attributed the fatalities to counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl that were manufactured and smuggled into the United States by Mexican drug trafficking organizations.”

The 32 people who died ranged in age from 16 to 64 years old, with an average age of 35. Nearly 75 percent of the deaths were men, and white addicts accounted for 50 percent of the deaths, the DEA reported. Eleven of the deaths were in Phoenix; seven occurred in Mesa; and the remaining 14 occurred in neighboring Valley cities. September and November 2016 totaled the largest number of deaths, with five fatalities each.

It remains unknown how many fentanyl-related deaths occurred throughout the state. More than 2,000 fentanyl-related overdoses were recorded nationally in 2015, according to multistate death reports cited by the DEA.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2017/03/21/dea-more-than-30-maricopa-county-deaths-linked-cartel-made-drugs/99466708/>

Suspected *Mexican cartel* leader smuggled 44 pounds of fentanyl into NYC, officials say.



Francisco Quiroz-Zamora, 41, was arrested in November after he traveled to New York City to collect a payment from an undercover agent posing as a drug dealer, authorities said. (DEA)

A suspected Mexican cartel drug kingpin was charged Tuesday in the seizure of 44 pounds of fentanyl from a sting operation late last year, officials said.

Francisco Quiroz-Zamora, 41, was arrested in November after he traveled to New York City to collect a payment from an undercover agent posing as a drug dealer, authorities said. Officials charged him in connection with the opioid seizure at a Bronx hotel and a posh Manhattan apartment.

Judge: Amount of drugs found could ‘wipe out half of Stamford’

By John Nickerson

Published 5:18 pm, Thursday, April 5, 2018



Photo: John Nickerson / Staff

STAMFORD — The amount of drugs commonly used as animal tranquilizers that police say were found at a Westover home was enough to “wipe out half of Stamford,” a judge said Thursday.

Stamford police said the raid of an illegal pill factory on quiet West Hill Circle turned up the largest seizure of the lethal drug carfentanil in city history.

“The synthetic opiate and animal tranquilizer used on livestock and elephants is believed to be 100 times stronger than fentanyl, which is 50 times stronger than heroin.”

“If the allegations are true, he could probably wipe out half of Stamford,” Judge Gary White said during Thursday’s arraignment.

White denied defense attorney Mark Sherman’s request to have his client’s bond reduced.

Sherman declined to comment on the charges, but said

Police Capt. Richard Conklin said Reichard was arrested Tuesday during a raid by the Narcotics and Organized Crime squad at his West Hill Circle residence.

The federal Drug Enforcement Agency and its clandestine laboratory enforcement team dismantled the operation.

Conklin said the team removed two 400- to 500-pound pill pressing machines as well as pill dyes and thousands of counterfeit 30-milligram Percocet pills, which he said were manufactured in the barn.

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Ohio Farmer Loses Children

- Rural SW Ohio farmer has lost two adult children to heroin/fentanyl overdoses
- Farm kids are not supposed to be addicted to these drugs
- If rural areas are this impacted, no area in the U.S. is safe from these drugs
- <http://safedr.ug/farm-ravaged>

Pharmaceutical Grade Fentanyl

- Street drugs involved are NOT pharmaceutical grade drugs
- Some so called experts have indicated the fentanyl on the street being injected is from patches!
- Drug potency just as deadly but clandestinely produced
- Deadliest drug epidemic of all time

Counterfeit pills made with fentanyl are deadly

**Fentanyl is 25 to 40 times
more powerful than heroin.**

Criminals are selling fake Norco, oxycodone and Xanax pills cut with (or made entirely of) fentanyl, a painkiller so powerful that it is prescribed in micro-doses.

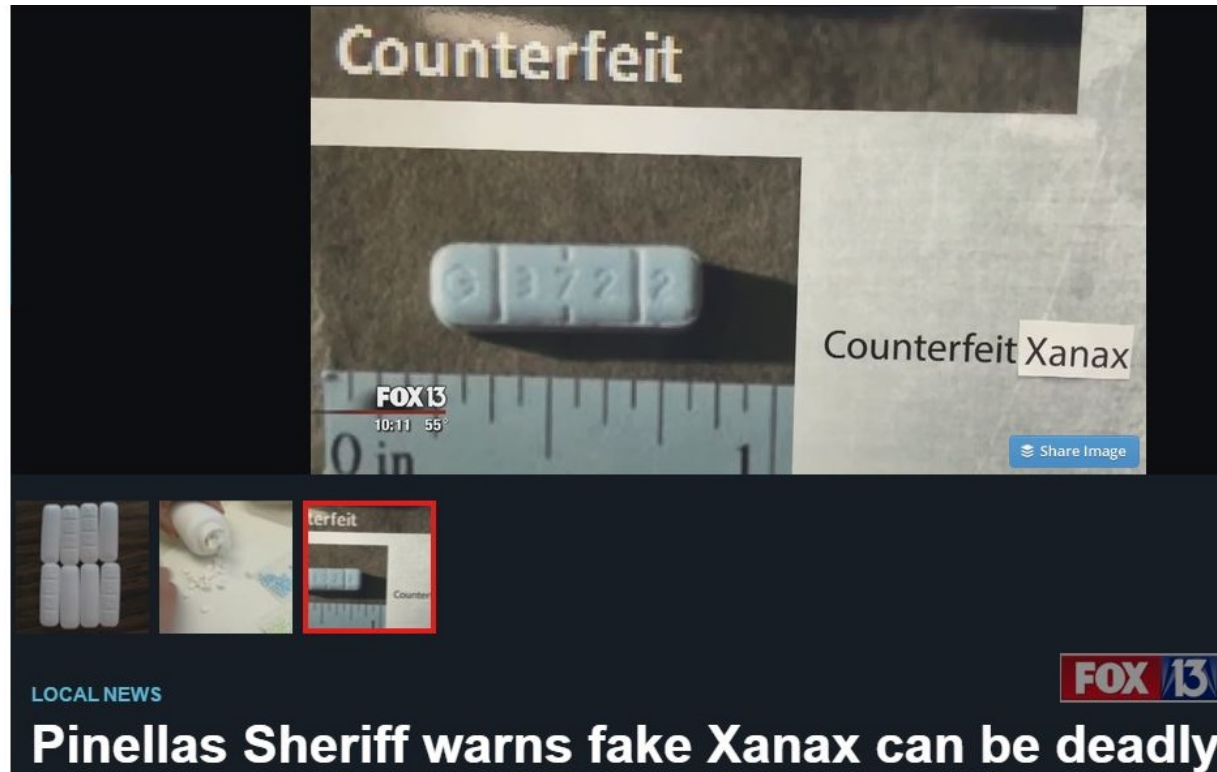
**Counterfeit pills made
with carfentanyl are even more deadly**

**Carfentanyl is 1,000 times more toxic
than morphine**



**It is an opioid used to sedate large animals and is
not for human use.**

Counterfeit pills made with fentanyl are available nationwide



Fentanyl has killed Americans in 31 states.

Counterfeit pills made with fentanyl are available nationwide

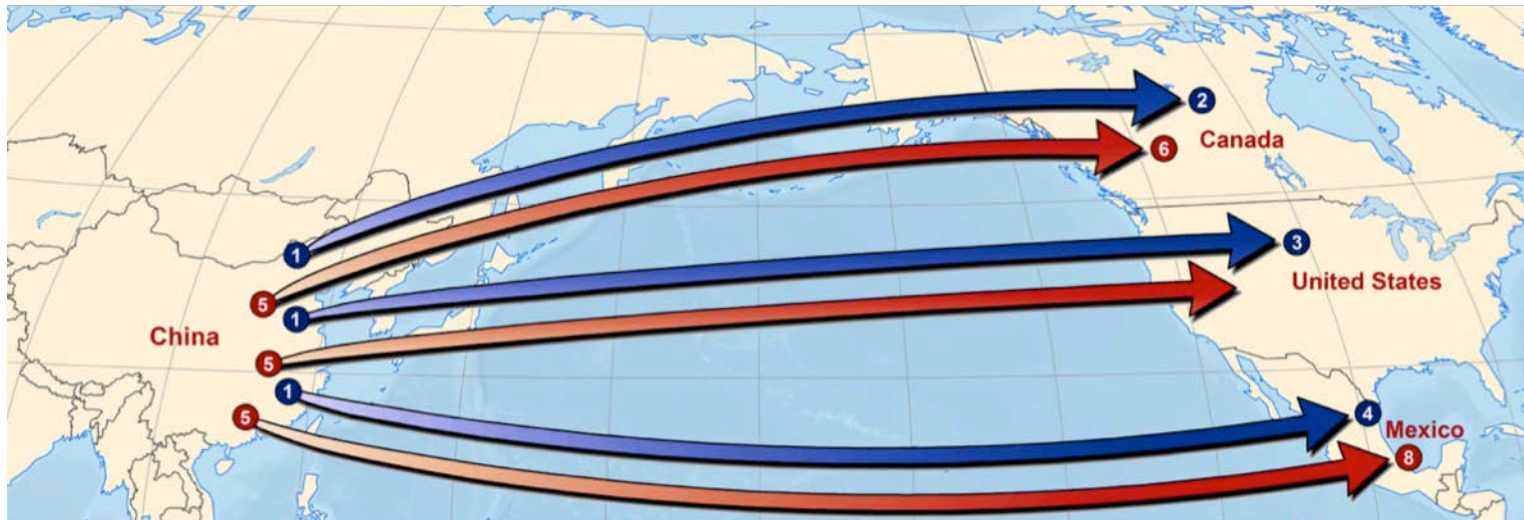
April 2016: Musician and entertainer Prince found dead in his home town of Minneapolis.

Autopsy report found that he had ingested a lethal dose of fentanyl after taking what he thought were generic Vicodin tablets.

Pills seized from his home were counterfeit hydrocodone tablets that looked exactly like real medicine.



Fentanyl from China is driving the counterfeit pill manufacture



DEA investigations have uncovered that fentanyl and its chemical analogues are being produced in China and shipped to North America.

A Public Health Crisis in Ohio

- ❖ Richland County: **60** deaths in 2016
- ❖ Rural Brown Co. leads state two years in a row for unintentional overdose deaths (per capita)
- ❖ Cincinnati: **9** deaths in 24 hours, 90 deaths in first two months of 2017
- ❖ Akron: **17** overdoses in a single day

A Public Health Crisis in Ohio

Carfentanyl is toxic to breathe, ingest, or touch, posing a serious danger to law enforcement.



*DEA agents raiding a fentanyl lab in Washington state
(June 2016 KEPRTV.com)*

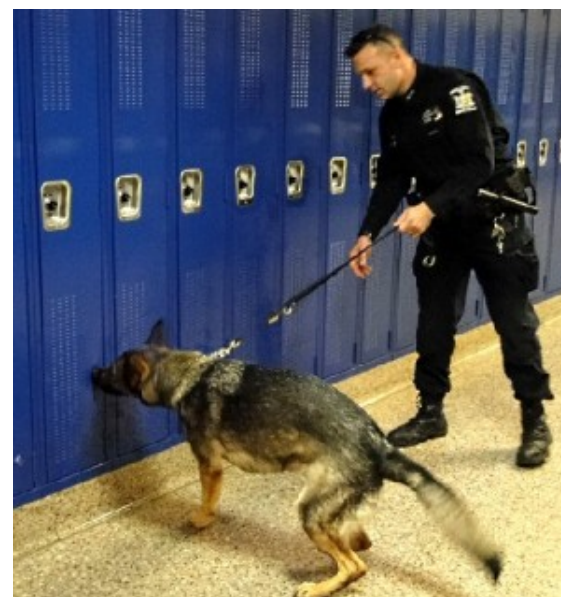
A Public Health Crisis Across America

*“You actually felt like you were **dying**. You couldn’t breathe, you’re very disoriented...”* D. Kallen, Atlantic County, NJ Investigator



Carfentanil and fentanyl can also prove deadly to drug-sniffing dogs.

It can’t safely be field tested, but must be brought back securely to a laboratory for testing.



Fentanyl and Carfentanyl

- Drugs coming to America in powder, kilo form
- Mixed with heroin to enhance potency or found in pure form on the street
- Made in labs in China primarily
- Inundating America's drug supply
- But for nasal naloxone's increased use by LE & others, death toll would be much worse
- Look for heroin distribution to disappear

2018

Stimulant Abuse Skyrocketing

CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

- Distributed by Mexican Cartels
- Much of it made in makeshift labs in Mexico
- Transported and distributed by same organizations that distribute heroin/fentanyl
- Beginning to inundate middle America
- Kilo prices as low as \$8,000
- Clandestine meth production very limited

CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

- OD Death rates on opioids already beginning to drop
- Trend has started in the fall of 2017 and increasing through 1st quarter of 2018
- Stimulant trend includes cocaine, and Rx drugs (Adderall/Ritalin)
- Some strong indication of significant switch from opioids to stimulants in the heartland

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018
WASHINGTON BALLROOM



RADARS® SYSTEM INTERNATIONAL PRE-SYMPOSIUM



International Landscape of Prescription Medication Misuse

The Growing Nexus Between NARCOS and Counterfeit Medicines

John Burke

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