

THE RISE OF FAKE PILLS

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What you need to know

DEA laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl.

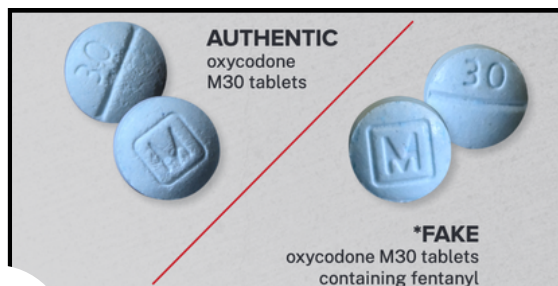
1 Counterfeit pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before.

Since 2019, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officials have reported a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least 2 mg of **fentanyl**, which is considered a deadly dose. This has led to an increase in accidental overdoses and over 100,000 fatalities each year in the U.S.

Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public. They know that once people misuse pills and become addicted, that they are willing to go to risky lengths, such as buying fake pills from a friend, online, or from a local dealer.

2 Why the sudden rise?

- Drug dealers have recognized a market to provide fake pills since it is cheaper and more easily accessible compared to real pills from a pharmacy.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone, *including minors*.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids and other medications such as oxycodone (Oxycontin[®], Percocet[®]), hydrocodone (Vicodin[®]), and alprazolam (Xanax[®]); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall[®]).
- Due to lack of knowledge, there is still a growing number of people buying fake pills - increasing their risk of a fatal overdose.



3 How to Spot a Fake Pill

Unfortunately to the human eye, spotting fake pills, or any other counterfeit drug, is a challenging—if not impossible—task.

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

ONLY use prescriptions prescribed to you by a trusted medical professional.

CALL 911

If you see someone overdosing from a fake pill, call emergency services, and be prepared to administer Naloxone. **For more info on where to get Naloxone**, visit our website at www.ekcenter.org. Your actions could help save someone's life.