



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ★ DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

Diversion News: November 2024

DEA Issues Warning about Online Pharmacies

The Drug Enforcement Administration has seen an increase in illegal online pharmacies selling and shipping counterfeit pills made with fentanyl and methamphetamine to unsuspecting customers in the United States who believe they are purchasing real pharmaceutical drugs such as oxycodone, Adderall, Xanax, and other drugs from legitimate pharmacies.

As Americans increasingly turn to online pharmacies to purchase necessary medications, a new DEA public safety alert warns of an increase in illegal online, often foreign-based websites that are deceptively targeting American consumers.

Website operators are going to great lengths to make the websites look like legitimate online pharmacies – they offer 24-hour customer service, post online reviews and safety facts, and offer deep discounts to deceive customers. Many of these sites purport to be legitimate, U.S.-based or FDA-approved sites that actually work with drug traffickers to fulfill online orders with fake pills.



For a full list of identified fake pharmacies in the recent criminal investigation, and to learn more about potential “red flags,” read the [Public Safety Alert](#).

Ten Pharmaceutical Distributor Executives, Sales Representatives, and Brokers Charged in Connection with Unlawful Sales of Nearly 70 Million Opioid Pills

On Oct. 3, 2024, the Department of Justice announced the largest ever criminal enforcement action targeting distributors of pharmaceutical opioids and commonly abused prescription drugs with an estimated street value of \$1.3 billion.

Charges against five pharmaceutical distributor executives and five pharmaceutical sales representatives and brokers are part of a larger enforcement action related to the unlawful distribution of nearly 70 million opioid pills and more than 30 million doses of other commonly abused prescription drugs to alleged Houston-area pill-mill pharmacies.

Nine individuals have pleaded guilty. The opioids allegedly distributed — oxycodone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone — were available in numerous strengths and forms, but the

distributors allegedly sold the drugs almost exclusively in their most abused, most powerful immediate-release pill forms — i.e., the ones that sold for the most money on the black market.

Learn more about the [case](#) and watch the [video statement from DEA Administrator Anne Milgram](#).

Enhanced Controlled Substance Ordering System to Launch in December

DEA will launch the new Controlled Substance Ordering System (CSOS) on Dec. 9., 2024. The new system will provide increased security without impacting customer service or patients' access to medications.

The system – used by DEA-registered pharmaceutical drug manufacturers and distributors, pharmacies, hospitals, and others – allows for the electronic ordering of Schedule I through V controlled substances.



An estimated 190,000 of DEA's more than 2.1 million registrants utilize CSOS. Learn more about the new, enhanced [CSOS](#) program and upcoming [training opportunities](#).

DEA's Operation Koda Brings Drug Awareness and Prevention to Remote Alaska Communities



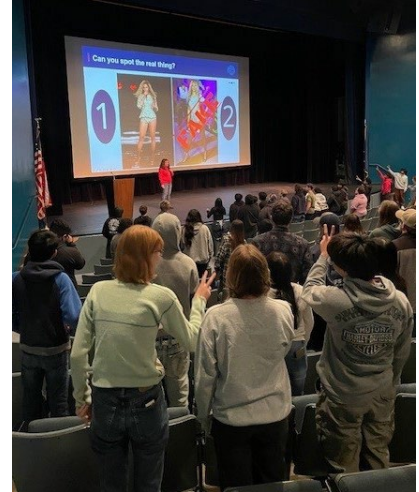
During the week of September 9 -13, DEA's Seattle Division and Anchorage District Office launched Operation Koda 2.0 – an outreach initiative to strengthen drug awareness and prevention in Alaska's remote communities. Named "Koda," meaning "friend" in Native American, this program reflects the DEA's commitment to supporting and educating communities impacted by substance misuse.

For the second year, DEA Diversion Investigators, Special Agents, Assistant U.S. Attorneys and DEA Outreach personnel, with air support from the DEA Aviation Division, visited towns including

Bethel, Kodiak, Ketchikan, and Fairbanks. They engaged with students, educators, and healthcare professionals on prescription drug misuse, fentanyl awareness, and careers within DEA.

The majority of students engaged were from hard-to-reach Native Alaskan communities, including Bethel High School, where more than 90 percent of students are American Indian or Alaska Native.

This year's outreach included local law enforcement and fentanyl awareness advocates, who shared powerful testimonies on the dangers of addiction. Local community leaders expressed appreciation and requested more frequent outreach to enhance awareness and education.



DEA Marks Another Successful Drug Take Back Day at more than 4,600 Locations Nationwide



DEA held its 26th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 26, 2024.

The community came together to drop off unused and unneeded medications and prevent drug misuse before it starts. More than 4,400 law enforcement partners joined the event nationwide.

Stay tuned for complete collections results at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>.

For those that missed the in-person event, year-round drop boxes are available. For more information on the locations of pharmacies and medical facilities with disposal locations, visit <https://www.dea.gov/everyday-takeback-day>

Diversion Control Division Enforcement

DEA's **Diversion Control Division** strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources. When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.



China-Based Chemical Manufacturing Companies and Employees Indicted for Alleged Fentanyl Manufacturing and Distribution

Oct. 24, 2024

DEA Warns Healthcare Workers of Impersonation Scam Targeting Doctors and Pharmacists

Oct. 24, 2024

Physician, Physician Assistant, and Practice Pay \$300K to Resolve Controlled Substances Act Allegations

Oct. 23, 2024

Former Nurse Pleads Guilty in Connection with Diverting Fentanyl from ICU Patient

Oct. 8, 2024

Multiple Pharmaceutical Distributor Executives, Sales Representatives and Brokers Charged in Connection with Unlawful Sales of over 70M Opioid Pills

Oct. 3, 2024

U.S. Attorney Announces Charges Against 18 Defendants in Scheme to Manufacture and Distribute Millions of Deadly Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals Through Fake Online Pharmacies

Sept. 30, 2024



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