

ABOUT ONLINE DRUG SELLERS AND COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

Facts About Online Drug Sellers

- A recent review of more than 11,000 websites selling prescription medications to U.S. consumers found approximately 96% appear to be in conflict with U.S. laws¹; 89% of illegal online pharmacies don't require a prescription;² and 20 new websites selling prescription medicines are launched every day.³
- 65% of online search results for prescription drugs lead U.S. consumers to illegal and unsafe websites.⁴
- Buying prescription medicines from illegal online pharmacies increases the risk of credit card and identity theft.⁵
- Nearly one in four adult consumers has purchased prescription medicines online and almost one in five of those indicated that they bought from a website that was not associated with a local pharmacy or health insurance plan.⁶
- 50% of medicines sold online by pharmacy websites that hide their physical street address are fake.⁷
- Products sold by illegal online drugs sellers often contain little or no active ingredients, are manufactured in unsafe conditions, and/or contain floor wax, mercury, concrete, chalk, boric acid, road tar, paint, anti-freeze and other deadly poisons.⁸

Facts About Counterfeit Medicines

- Worth \$200 billion a year, the market for counterfeit pharmaceuticals now eclipses almost everything else in the underground economy, including prostitution, human trafficking and illegal arms sales.⁹
- It is estimated that up to a third of the world's prescription drugs are counterfeit, although this figure is closer to two-thirds in some developing countries.^{10,11} Of these, more than half are classified as "lifesaving", such as treatments for cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disorders and anti-infectives.¹²

¹ [Internet Drug Outlet Identification Program](#), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, 2016

² [Buying Medicine Online – What Are the Risks](#), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

³ [The Internet Pharmacy Market in 2016](#), LegitScript and the Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies, January 2016

⁴ [Online Pharmacy Market Spotlight Report: The United States](#), ASOP Global and LegitScript, July 2016

⁵ [What You Need to Know Before You Buy Prescription Medications Online](#), Disease Management, 2015

⁶ [Buying Prescription Medicines Online](#), U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2013

⁷ [Buying Medicine Online – What Are the Risks](#), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

⁸ [Poisons Found in Counterfeit Medicines](#), Partnership for Safe Medicines, 2012

⁹ [Counterfeiting: An Industry Three Times Larger than the Illicit Global Drug Trade](#), Sophic Capital, 2014

¹⁰ [Counterfeiting: An Industry Three Times Larger than the Illicit Global Drug Trade](#), Sophic Capital, 2014

¹¹ [Counterfeit Medicines and the Role of IP in Patient Safety](#), IP Watchdog, 2016

¹² [Counterfeit Drug Penetration into Global Legitimate Supply Chains](#), American Journal of Tropic Medicine and Hygiene, April 2015