

Enforcement Actions Fact Sheet (Updated 11/19/19)

- 1) In November 2019, Harley Skyberg, 40, was charged with running a drug trafficking operation on the internet that offered a variety of bath salt substances for sale. The website, "wickedherbals.guru," sold chemicals that had been obtained from China. Four 27-gallon tubs of alpha-PVP or "bath salts" were seized at the time of arrest, and possession of this substance with intent to distribute is punishable by up to 20 years in prison and \$1,000,000 fine.¹
- 2) In October 2019, Dion Gregory Fisher, 33, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for manufacturing and distributing hundreds of thousands of counterfeit 30 mg oxycodone pills. The pills were made with fentanyl that had been ordered from China. Fisher was ordered to forfeit \$1.4 million in profits.²
- 3) In October 2019, online drug dealer Trevon Antone Lucas, 23, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for selling counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl that caused an overdose death in June 2018. Lucas posted advertisements online showing illegal prescription pills. Lucas was aware that the pills he was selling were counterfeit, contained fentanyl, and that fentanyl laced pills has caused an overdose death in San Diego. Lucas sold nine of the pills to the 37-year-old victim anyway, who was found dead by his mother the next morning.³
- 4) In October 2019, three Chinese nationals were indicted for importing and distributing opioids including duranyl fentanyl, U-47700, and methoxyacetyl fentanyl. The conspiracy was operated through websites located in the People's Republic of China, and the defendants used the alias "Alex" when using these websites. The substances were shipped through the United States Postal Service and in less than a year, the operation mailed 2,900 packages of controlled substances to customers in the United States.⁴
- 5) In July 2019, a Colombian national pleaded guilty to charges of distributing fentanyl and other substances into the United States, resulting in 15 overdoses. 11 of these overdoses caused serious bodily injury and 4 of these resulted in death. Vivas Ceron and members

¹ ["Vancouver, Washington, man charged with possessing and distributing a controlled substance manufactured in China"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, November 8, 2019

² ["Large-Scale Counterfeit Fentanyl Pill Dealer Sentenced To 30 Years In Prison"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, October 31, 2019

³ ["Online Drug Dealer Sentenced to 15 Years for Distributing Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl that Caused Overdose Death"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, October 16, 2019

⁴ ["Three Chinese Nationals Using the Alias "Alex" Indicted in the United States for Conspiring to Import and Distribute Deadly Opioids"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, October 1, 2019

of his conspiracy used encrypted WICKR accounts and multiple email addresses to conduct business, which he ran out of his jail cell in Canada.⁵

- 6) In May 2019, Sean Shaughnessy, 51, of Dallas Fort Worth, Texas, was indicted for selling fentanyl and its analogues over the dark web. One of his buyers overdosed and died. Shaughnessy was a part of Operation Dark Gold, a year-long national operation that used undercover law enforcement to target darknet vendors. He was among several individuals charged and convicted for selling opioids and narcotics online.⁶
- 7) In May 2019, the owners and operators of a website called DeepDotWeb were indicted in a money laundering conspiracy related to kickbacks for sales of fentanyl, heroin, and other illegal materials on darknet marketplaces. The FBI considers DeepDotWeb to be a gateway to darknet marketplaces and a facilitator of opioid sales in the United States.⁷
- 8) In May 2019, three Germans were charged with administrating Wall Street Market, one of the world's largest dark web marketplaces. Wall Street Market allowed 5,400 vendors to sell illegal goods including narcotics to about 1.15 million customers worldwide. Some of the top vendors on Wall Street Market were major distributors of opioids including fentanyl, oxycodone and hydrocodone.⁸
- 9) In May 2019, Robert Richard Jodoin, 50, was sentenced to nearly eleven years in prison for importing GHB into the United States, distributing benzoyl fentanyl, and possession of other controlled substances with intent to distribute. The web domain PRIMALVISIONS.NET was used by Jodoin to sell drugs, and multiple overdose victims across the United States were linked to the website.⁹
- 10) In May 2019, a Michigan man was sentenced to two years in prison for illegally importing kratom, a powerful psychoactive substance, and selling it through his online business called "Nomad Botanicals." The site claimed that it could be used to treat serious diseases and medical conditions as a substitute for prescription medication.¹⁰
- 11) In April 2019, two men pleaded guilty for selling counterfeit and substandard injectable and oral steroids, Xanax, Valium, and Viagra through darknet website "NextDayGear." Some of these drugs were manufactured by the defendants, who shipped over 10,000

⁵ ["Colombian National Pleads Guilty to Operating an International Fentanyl Trafficking Organization from a Canadian Prison"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, July 12, 2019

⁶ ["Darknet Fentanyl Dealer Indicted in Nationwide Undercover Operation Targeting Darknet Vendors Who were Selling to Thousands of U.S. Residents"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, May 30, 2019

⁷ ["Administrators of DeepDotWeb Indicted for Money Laundering Conspiracy, Relating to Kickbacks for Sales of Fentanyl, Heroin and Other Illegal Goods on the Darknet"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, May 8, 2019

⁸ ["Three Germans Who Allegedly Operated Dark Web Marketplace with Over 1 Million Users Face U.S. Narcotics and Money Laundering Charges"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, May 3, 2019

⁹ ["Flagler Beach Man Sentenced To Nearly Eleven Years In Federal Prison For Selling Benzoyl Fentanyl And Other Drugs Online"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, May 14, 2019

¹⁰ ["Michigan Man Sentenced for Unlawfully Importing and Distributing Misbranded Drugs"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, May 8, 2019

packages across the United States between 2013 and 2018, generating over \$2.3 million in revenue.¹¹

- 12) In April 2019, two Canadian men were indicted for selling carfentanil, fentanyl, heroin and other drugs to American customers through their darknet vendor account “Pharmapill.” The account operated on marketplaces like AlphaBay, Dream Market, and Majestic Garden. The drugs were shipped to locations in the United States.¹²
- 13) In March 2019, five Argentine men were arrested to be extradited and tried in Milwaukee on charges of operating several illegal online pharmacies used to sell millions of dollars in prescription drugs to American customers. These drugs included oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, alprazolam, diazepam, and tramadol among others, and were sold to American customers without a prescription. The websites, including GOLDPHARMA24.com and 24hsmeds.com, generated \$6.7 million in profits from the sale of prescription medication and controlled substances to American customers.¹³
- 14) In March 2019, a Pennsylvania man was charged with distributing over 100,000 Schedule IV prescription pain pills through the United States Postal Service. Eugene Snyder, 71, mailed over 100,000 Tramadol and Carisoprodol tablets to sellers and users throughout the United States. The details of the shipments were communicated with buyers through social media platforms, including Facebook.¹⁴
- 15) In March 2019, Richard Castro, prolific dark web fentanyl and carfentanil dealer, was arrested on charges of selling and distributing fentanyl, carfentanil, and other fentanyl analogues through dark web marketplaces including AlphaBay and Dream Market. Using the moniker “Chemsusa,” Castro completed more than 3,200 transactions on the dark web.¹⁵
- 16) In February 2019, the head of the deadly Elmira opioid trafficking organization was sentenced to 23 years in prison for using substances like furanyl fentanyl and U-47700 ordered from China via the dark web to create opioid pills stamped to resemble legitimate 30 milligram Percocet pills. After manufacturing the pills, Robert Thatcher distributed them to dealers who sold the pills on the streets. These pills caused two deaths and at least one non-lethal overdose.¹⁶
- 17) In February 2019, a Texas couple with the highest number of verified transactions of any fentanyl vendor in the world was sentenced to prison. The couple operated the dark net

¹¹ ["US: Two Men Plead Guilty to Selling Drugs for Crypto and Laundering \\$2.8 Million"](#), Yahoo Finance, April 24, 2019

¹² ["Two Canadian men indicted for selling carfentanil, fentanyl and heroin over the Internet and shipping the drugs to Europe, Canada and the U.S., including Ohio"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, April 25, 2019

¹³ ["Five Argentines face charges after international online pharmacy ring is busted in Milwaukee"](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 9, 2019

¹⁴ ["Snyder County Man Charged With Conspiracy To Distribute Over 100,000 Prescription Pain Pills Using Priority Mail"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, March 20, 2019

¹⁵ ["Prolific Dark Web Dealer Of Carfentanil And Fentanyl Arrested"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, March 12, 2019

¹⁶ ["Head Of Deadly Elmira Opioid Trafficking Organization Sentenced To 23 Years In Prison"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, February 7, 2019

marketplace account “MH4LIFE” among other accounts, which operated on marketplaces like Dream Market, Silk Road, AlphaBay, Darknet Heroes League, and others.¹⁷

- 18) In November 2018, a Chinese national residing in Massachusetts was sentenced to nearly six years in prison for his role in shipping kilogram amounts of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues across the United States. The drugs were ordered from various Chinese websites, which were shipped to Bin Wang, 43, who then shipped them domestically. One of these Chinese websites was linked to the purchase of acetylfentanyl that caused the overdose death of two Summit County residents in 2015.¹⁸
- 19) In August 2018, a Florida man pleaded guilty in federal court for owning and operating Executive Image International, a website that sold drugs like Silver Bullet, which was described as “all-natural male enhancer,” and an “Extreme Male Stimulant.” Silver Bullet actually contained sildenafil, the active pharmaceutical ingredient that is found in Viagra. The drug was purchased from China, and the label did not indicate the presence of sildenafil.¹⁹
- 20) In June 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice announced results from a yearlong operation targeting online sellers of illicit drugs. Five New York residents were charged after law enforcement discovered 12 kilograms of counterfeit Xanax pills, four pill presses and other materials in three residences searched.²⁰
- 21) In April 2018, three Orange County men were charged with manufacturing and distributing counterfeit pills designed to look like name-brand oxycodone pills. The men purchased fentanyl and analogue cyclopropyl fentanyl online to make counterfeit pills which they sold through darknet marketplaces. Authorities seized bags that contained nearly 3 kilograms of counterfeit oxycodone and Xanax from the pill press lab.²¹
- 22) In March 2018, Lynn resident Philip Goodwin, 37, was sentenced to over 10 years in prison for trafficking counterfeit steroids, including testosterone and trenbolone, through social media. Five others were also arrested for their role in marketing, selling and distributing the steroids, which were falsely marketed as “Onyx” steroids, which is a legitimate pharmaceutical company that does not manufacture steroids.²²
- 23) In March 2018, a New York man and a New Jersey woman pleaded guilty to their roles in distributing controlled substances through two internet-based companies, Unbeatablechems and RC Powders. Through the websites, the pair distributed controlled

¹⁷ ["Texas couple sentenced to prison; they were the most prolific dark net fentanyl vendor in the world at the time of their arrest last year"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, February 7, 2019

¹⁸ ["Chinese national sentenced to nearly six years in prison for distributing opioids and other drugs that were shipped from China to the U.S. and ultimately to Ohio"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, November 19, 2018

¹⁹ ["Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Scheme to Market Dietary Supplements"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, August 15, 2018

²⁰ ["New York Residents Charged After Being Found With Over 12 Kilos Of Counterfeit Xanax Pills"](#), The Partnership for Safe Medicines, August 9, 2018

²¹ ["Three O.C. Men Face Federal Narcotics Charges that Allege Distribution of Counterfeit Opioid Pills Containing Fentanyl"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, April 5, 2018

²² ["Lynn Man Sentenced to Over 10 Years in Prison for Role in Counterfeit Steroid Conspiracy"](#), U.S. Department of Justice, March 30, 2018

substances such as the highly potent synthetic opioid U-47700 and two hallucinogenic drugs with properties similar to A-PVP and PCP. The U-47700 sold on these sites resulted in the death of a customer in Madison, Wisconsin.²³

- 24) In March 2018, three people were indicted for their roles in distributing pills containing fentanyl that led to a series of overdoses and one death in Tennessee. The counterfeit pills were pressed to resemble Percocet pills by pressing the Percocet "A333" label into them. The pills actually contained fentanyl, alprazolam, and acetaminophen. The men who manufactured the pills had obtained the fentanyl from China via internet and had ordered the pill press on Amazon.²⁴

²³ "[New York Man Admits Distributing Synthetic Drug Leading To Overdose Death](#)", U.S. Department of Justice, March 28, 2018

²⁴ "[Federal Jury Finds Three Guilty In Fentanyl Distribution Conspiracy](#)", U.S. Department of Justice, March 27, 2018