


The Illicit Fentanyl Crisis and Drug Poisonings

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Retired Supervisory Special Agent
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration



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2019 – China added fentanyl to its "Supplementary List of Controlled Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances with Non-Medical Use" ...so now they just ship the chemicals (precursors)

3

The Select Committee On The Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

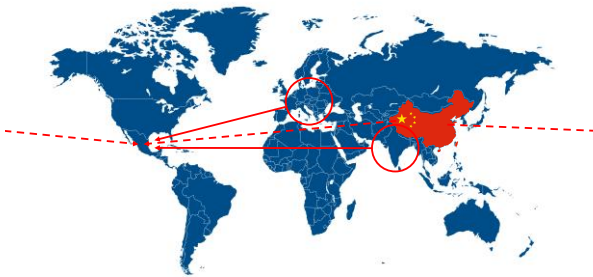


The working group spent months building on the Select Committee's bipartisan investigation which uncovered for the first time how the CCP directly subsidizes fentanyl precursors and analogues, while also showing how the CCP has failed to aggressively pursue exporters of deadly substances or meaningfully police PRC-based e-commerce platforms for these sales.

"Earlier this spring, the Select Committee uncovered new evidence showing how the Chinese Communist Party directly fuels America's fentanyl crisis. China has programs in place to reward companies with subsidies for exporting fentanyl and other drugs illegal under Chinese law to the United States. It is now abundantly clear that the CCP is not just turning a blind eye to the fentanyl crisis, it is causing it." - Chairman John Moolenaar (R-MI)

Source: The Select Committee on the CCP - December 2024

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5



How Africa Became a Key Link for Mexican Cartels in Fentanyl Production

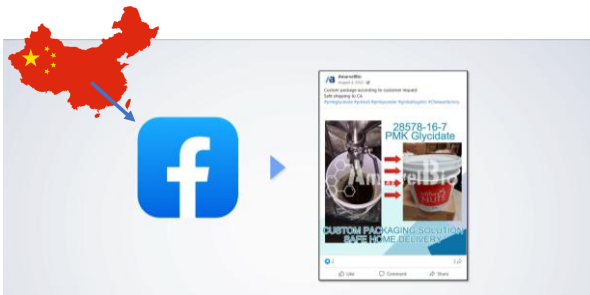
The Mexican cartel is using South Africa as a gateway to the continent, where it has established bases to manufacture fentanyl, police said.

Source: The Epoch Times - December 2024

6



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DEA Operation Killer Chemicals (June 2023)

8



Operation Killer Chemicals (June 2023)

9



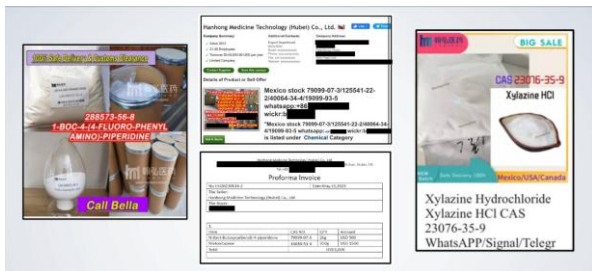
DEA Operation Killer Chemicals (June 2023)

10



DEA Operation Killer Chemicals (June 2023)

11



DEA Operation Chem Capture (Oct 2023)

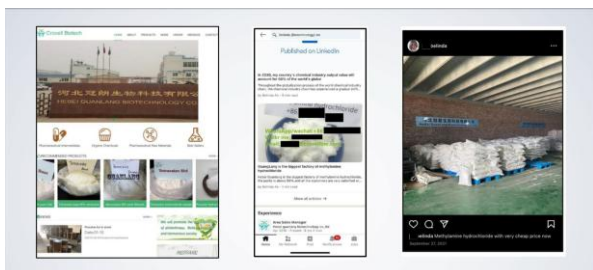
12





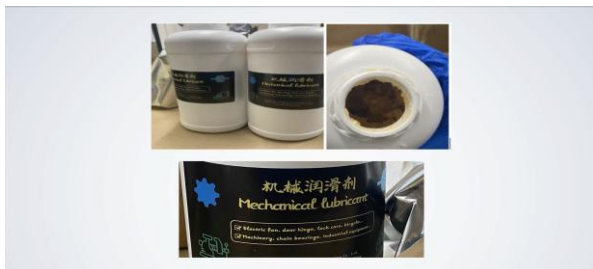
DEA Operation Chem Capture (Oct 2023)

13



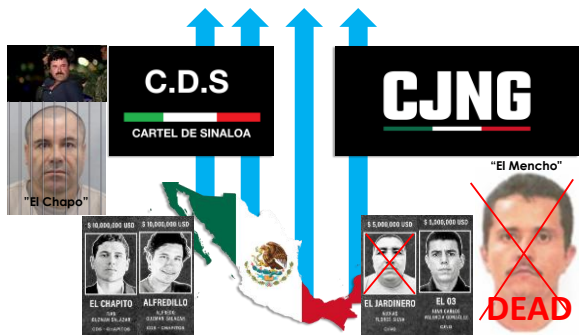
DEA Operation Chem Capture (Oct 2023)

14

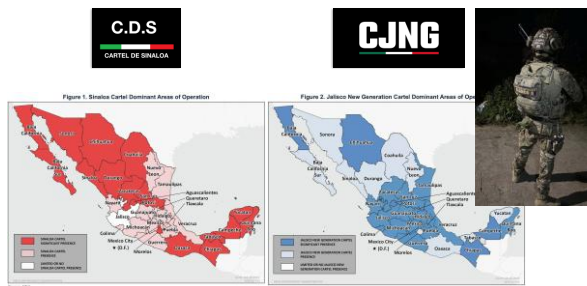


DEA Operation Chem Capture (Oct 2023)

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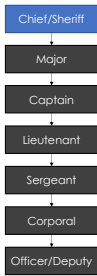
Both operate in at least 40 countries

17

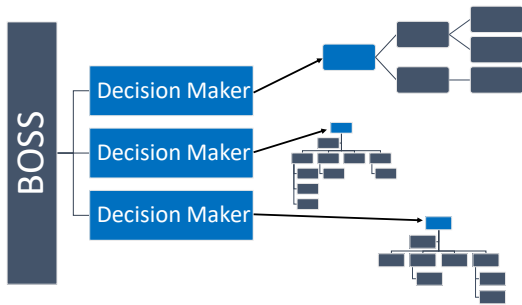


Source: Global Guardian (Oct 2022)

18



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21

Drug cartels now Mexico's 5th-largest employer

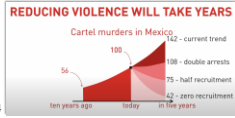
~175,000

- Arrests
- Kills
- Retirements



Recruitment
~350/week

"secret of the success of a cartel!"



Source: Washington Times / Rafael Prieto Curiel - December 2024

22



23



24

The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/01/world/americas/mexico-fentanyl-chemistry-students.html>
Criminals turn college campuses into recruitment hubs, recruiting chemistry students in Mexico with big paydays.

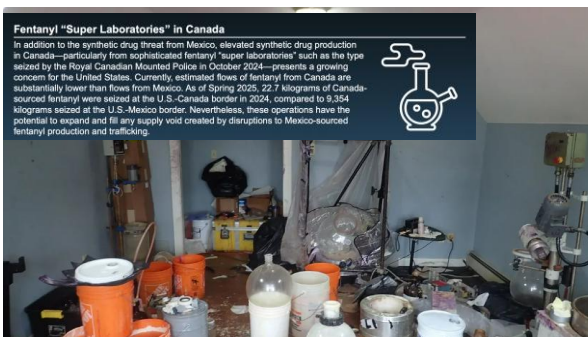


Source: New York Times (12/1/24)

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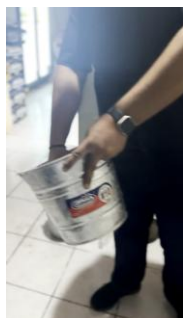


31



Source: New York Times - December 2024

32



Source: New York Times - December 2024

33

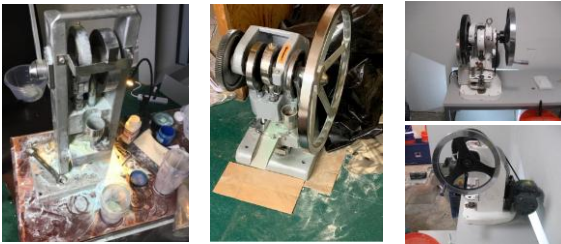


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In 2023, CBP identified over 90 China-based entities with numerous sub-companies that ship pill presses and die molds to the US.

Source: HSI - *Illicit Fentanyl Supply Chain* - DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis - October 2024

35



36



CA

37



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Claudia Sheinbaum
 President of Mexico • 2024-present



41

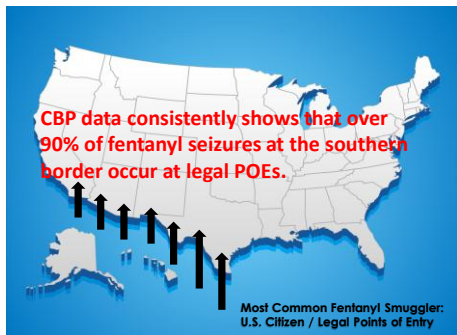
“Hugs, not bullets” Policy

AP
 (March 2024)
 Mexico's president says he won't fight
 drug cartels on US orders, calls it a
 'Mexico First' policy

Andrés Manuel López Obrador
 a.k.a. AMLO
 President of Mexico • 2018-2024



42



43

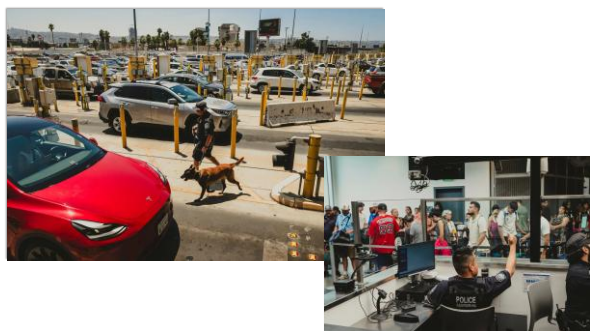
~70,000
northbound
vehicles/day

~20,000
northbound
pedestrians/day

San Ysidro



44



45

Border Security

- 1924 – present
- National Security
- Smuggling
- Illegal migration
- Terrorism
- Barriers
- Perimeter lighting
- Enforcement cameras
- Sensors
- Drones
- Other related technology

Immigration

Separate Issue!

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Border Security

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47



48



52



53



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57



58



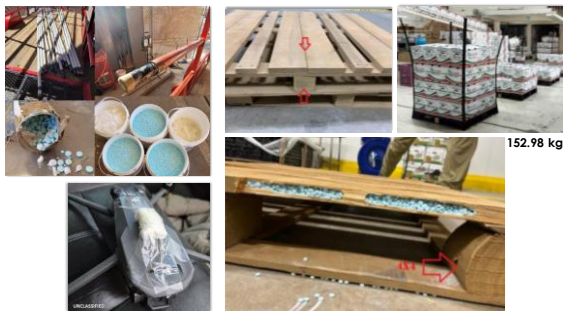
59



60



61



62



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64



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66



~1.2 million fentanyl pills

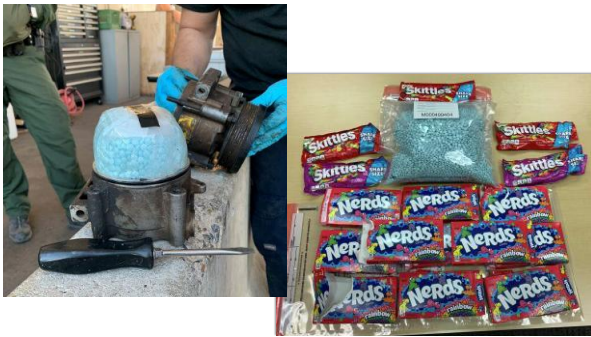
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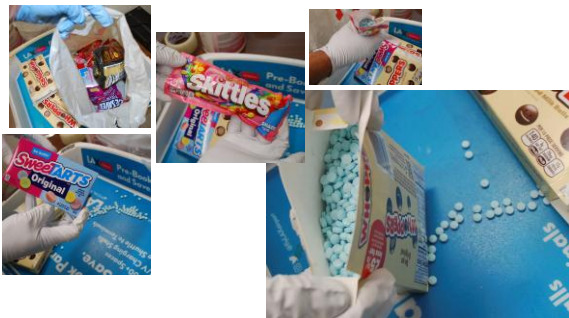
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72



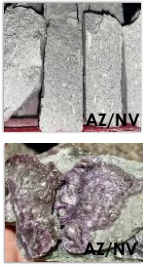
73



74



75



Source: DEA Orlando District Office

76



SOURCE: Drug Enforcement Administration

"kinetic-sand" like (moldable sensory play sand)

77

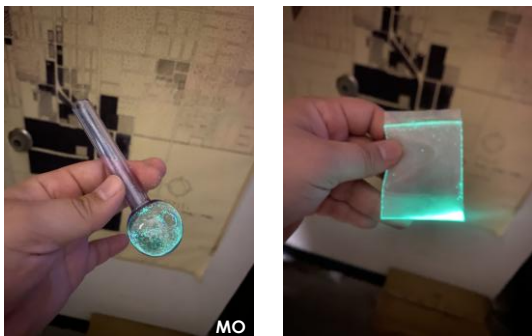


"Green Fentanyl"

78



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80

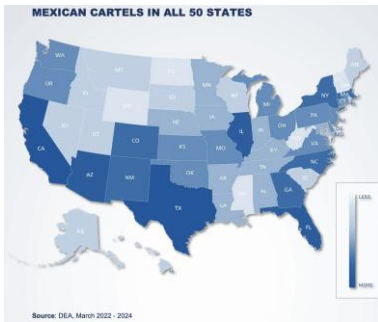
		<p>C.D.S CARTEL DE SINALOA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "180" • "250" • "Power 350" • "400" • "500" • "550" • "700 power" • "750" • "800 with no cut" • "1000+" • "F1000"
(U/LES) Image 3	(U/LES) Image 4	
(U/LES) Image 5	(U/LES) Image 6	

© 2016 White of Havana (private label) of a property of Colabor. Sinaloa. (Source: Mis Dices)

81



82



83

- 1 Kilogram (2.2 lbs.) = \$25,000 - \$50,000
= \$3,000 - \$7,000
- 1 ounce = \$1,500 - \$2,000
- 1 gram = \$80 - \$150
- 1 pill/capsule = \$.40 - \$30

84

- 1 Kilogram (2.2 lbs.) = \$25,000 - \$50,000
= \$3,000 - \$7,000
- 1 ounce = \$1,500 - \$2,000
- 1 gram = \$80 - \$150
- 1 pill/capsule = \$.40 - \$30 - "Beans," "Blues,"
"Buttons"
"M30s," "Dirty 30's"

"Fent," "Fenny," "Fenty," "Fetty"

85

FAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

PERCODET & OXYCODONE XANAX ADDERALL

DEALER SIGNALS

DEALER ADVERTISING HIGH POTENCY UNIVERSAL FOR DRUGS LARGE BATCH

OTHER DRUGS

METH HEROIN COCAINE

MDMA & MOLLIES MUSHROOMS COUGH SYRUP MARIJUANA

Adderall:
Study Hall, Study Help, Study Aid, Study Buddy, footballs

86

- 1 Kilogram (2.2 lbs.) = \$3,000 - \$7,000

1 kg = 1,000,000 milligrams
1 mg = 1 pill
1,000,000 mg = 1,000,000 pills
1 pill = \$10

1,000,000 pills x \$10
= \$10,000,000



87

A REUTERS INVESTIGATION

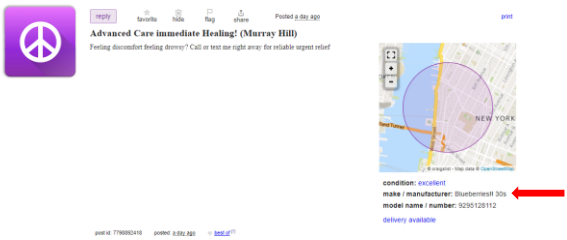
We bought everything needed to make \$3 million worth of fentanyl.

All it took was \$3,600 and a web browser.

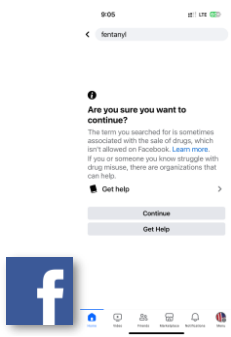
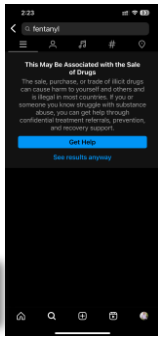
88



89



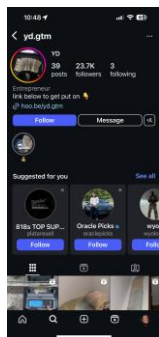
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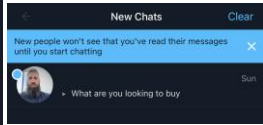
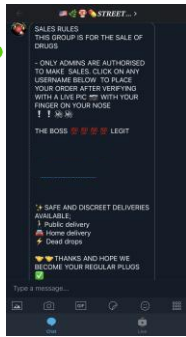
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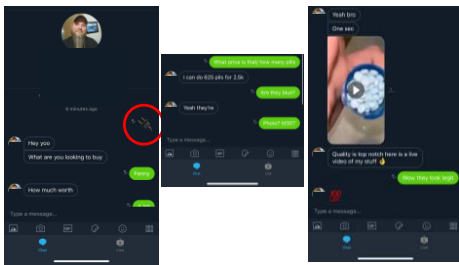
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93



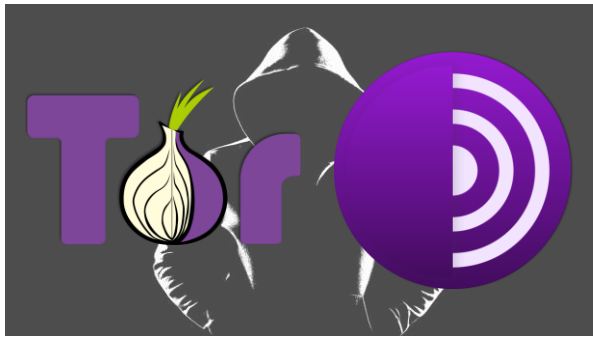
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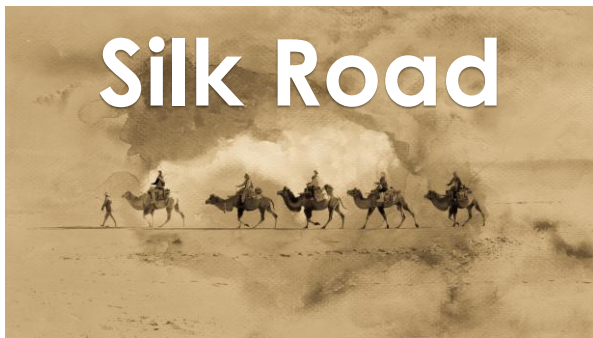
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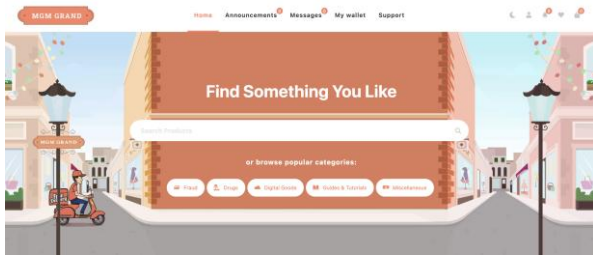


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Cryptomarket	Type of listings	Total drug listings (n)
Tor2Door	Miscellaneous	18,700
Archegg	Drugs only	3629
Dark Fax	Miscellaneous	29,840
Balthasar	Miscellaneous	39,807
Highway 40	Drugs only	879
Shogoin	Drugs only	13,547
Royal	Miscellaneous	21,054
Eggher	Miscellaneous	2048
We the North	Miscellaneous	1750
Comms	Miscellaneous	421
Kingdom	Miscellaneous	1504
Honesty	Miscellaneous	7417
Arts	Miscellaneous	5235
Total		137,834

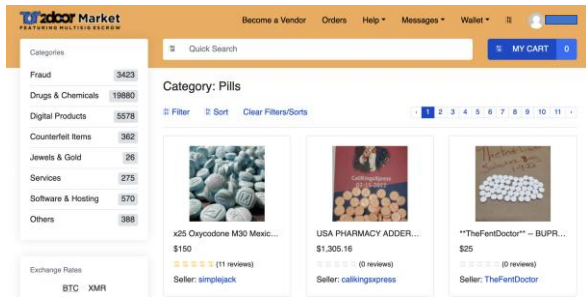


99



- March 2021
- 6 staff
- 4% commission
- 745 vendors
- 23,115 listings
- 98,794 buyers / 37,624 active

100



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Marketplace > ****1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN BEST REVIEWS***

LISTING OPTIONS

Contact seller
Report to Support


Account
Total saved: CAD 0
Total orders: CAD 0

SEARCH

Search:

BROWSE CATEGORIES

- > Fraud 1201
- > Drugs & Chemicals 2165
- > Guides & Tutorials 1422
- > Counterfeit Items 90
- > Digital Products 971



******1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN BEST REVIEWS*****

Item ID: 1.5 gram
Sold to: [redacted] 204 sold since Dec 08, 2021 View Listing Send Message

Features
Product Class: On the market with
Physical Package: Dec 08, 2021
Origin Country: Nigeria

Purchase price: **CAD \$131.25**

Qty: Buy Item

0.00465 BTC

Description | **Feedback**

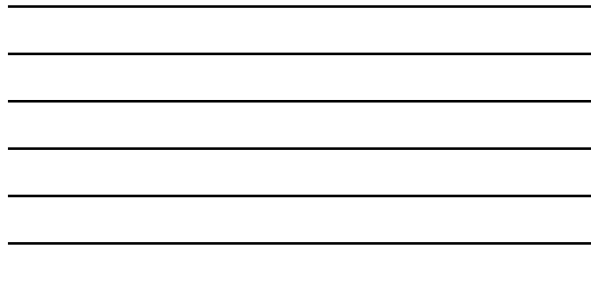
******1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN BEST REVIEWS*****

1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN top notch quality. Express shipped outside your tracking included. Depending on time of order may or may not be purple. Will always be top quality product.

Not one other vendor has got this quality like us! this site will have you looking wanting more! The reviews speak for themselves enjoy be safe and always keep narcos amount :)

Are you sick of looking sick? Try our latest priority ship listing for 205

103



Marketplace > ****1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN BEST REVIEWS***

LISTING OPTIONS

Contact seller
Report to Support


Account
Total saved: CAD 0
Total orders: CAD 0

SEARCH

Search:

BROWSE CATEGORIES

- > Fraud 1201
- > Drugs & Chemicals 2165
- > Guides & Tutorials 1422
- > Counterfeit Items 90
- > Digital Products 971
- > Jewels & Gold 1
- > Carded Items 8



******1.5 GRAM PURPLE HEROIN BEST REVIEWS*****

Item ID: 1.5 gram
Sold to: [redacted] 204 sold since Dec 08, 2021 View Listing Send Message

Features
Product Class: On the market with
Physical Package: Dec 08, 2021
Origin Country: Nigeria

Purchase price: **CAD \$131.25**

Qty: Buy Item

0.00465 BTC


Description | **Feedback**

Total Feedback: 168 - Positive: 164 - Negative: 2

Feedback	Buyer	Date
product is great! haven't had stuff like this in a looong time, will be ordering again for sure.	47%	Sep 30, 2022
The best... only vendor I trust for this, clean, consistent dose potent at start small and enjoy.	97%	Sep 29, 2022
This is quality and straight up fire in 1-3 days...he is diff the man	97%	CAD \$131.25 Sep 29, 2022
Absolutely the best!! 1 day to rural area recommend the FedEx option	97%	CAD \$131.25 Sep 27, 2022
Best vendor!!	47%	CAD \$131.25 Sep 27, 2022
As time to ship and arrive was fast! Consistent quality I've come to expect. Thankst!	17%	CAD \$131.25 Sep 26, 2022

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Description | Policies | Reviews

4MG Xanax Bar - Blue B707

Original manufacturer: Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc.

NOTICE: These bars are replica. They have accurate shape, weight, and markings of some pharmaceutical grade Xanax. As good as it gets!

Best you will find on DNM, tested for quality control.

We only provide best sources!

Please encrypt address for safety!

Discover: Quick shipping, quality product! Tracking, great stealth!

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"Pharmaceutical"
"Pharma-Grade"



"Fent-Free"



109



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We are the oldest and most trusted darknet sellers of premium oxy pills. We offer Pharmacy Grade 30mg Oxycodone pills all sourced in the United States. Our pills are safe and not pressed with dangerous amounts of other drugs or hot spots. When purchasing from us you are purchasing a top quality product.

M30 15x 30mg oxycodone Xpress Shipping

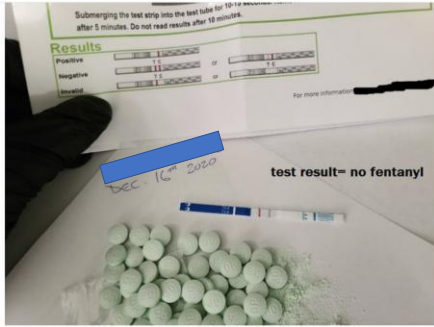
m30 25 x 30mg oxycodone

Since Alphabay Market, More then 5400 sales on Dream Market
21k sales on canadahq

Proof:
<https://bb.co/cJ19wX1>
<https://bb.co/M2dGfMh>
<https://bb.co/6n668jk>

You get:
 15 pills of 30mg Oxycodone - 100% real product. Cheapest on the market!
NO FENTANYL or any other crap. Your safety is our priority. TEST RESULT: <https://bb.co/2YJ3s0v>

111



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De Minimis Loophole

1938 - \$1 → 1978 - \$5 → 1994 - \$200 → 2016 - \$800

Packages under \$800 imported into the US:

- No inspection / minimal inspection
- No information disclosure
- No duty payment



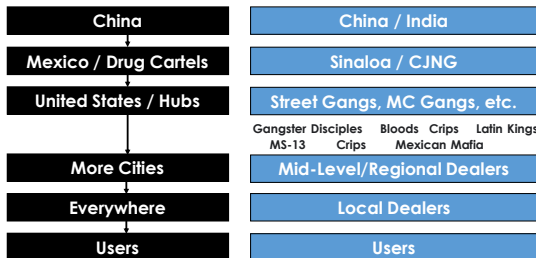
2010 – 722,000 packages = ~2,000/day
2023 ~1 billion packages = ~3,000,000/day
(62% of these originated from China)
2024 ~1.4-1.5 billion packages = <4,000,000/day 92%

113

Ended by Presidential Executive Order on August 29, 2025

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2023 ~1 billion packages = ~3,000,000/day
(62% of these originated from China)
2024 ~1.4-1.5 billion packages = <4,000,000/day 92%

114



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Law Enforcement Training Coordinator II
 Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center
btownsend@mocic.riss.net

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