

## Forgotten Aspect of Counterfeit Drug Making

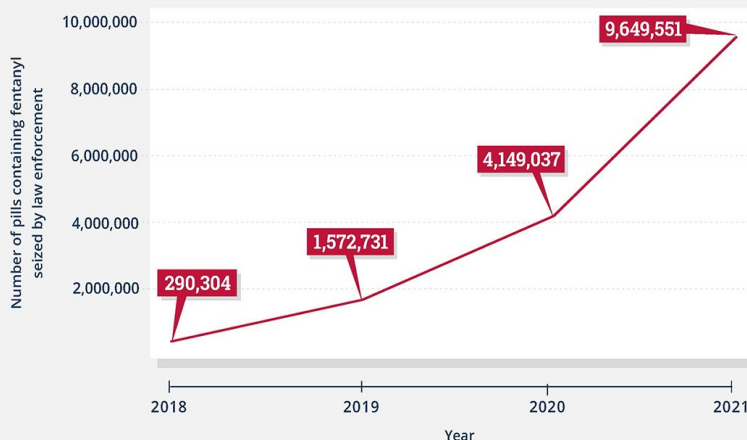
The first U.S. reports of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl emerged in a handful of jurisdictions in 2015. By October 2019, such counterfeit pills were found in all 50 states. Of the devices that contributed to the increase of counterfeit pills was the pill press. The pill press, or tableting machine is a mechanical device that compresses powder into tablets and it was originally conceived as a tool for pharmaceutical development and manufacturing. However these pill presses have also been used in illicit drug making. Small and large drug trafficking organizations, as well as independent individuals obtain these pill presses rather easily through either Amazon or Ebay. While Amazon's has placed in its policies that they ban pill presses from its platform, but there are several reports that that people have still posted and sold



pill presses on the website. Amazon does stock and sell a variety of manual encapsulating device. In addition to the pill press, pill die molds are also a hot commodity for drug traffickers and are mainly purchased on the Dark Web.

In sophisticated operations, a counterfeit pill can be visibly identical to its legitimate prescription form and only distinguishable through chemical testing. Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl often look like prescription opioids, including OxyContin, Vicodin, or Percocet.

**Number of Pills Containing Fentanyl Seized by Law Enforcement in the United States, 2018 – 2021**



Estimates based on data reported by the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program

Reference: JJ Palamar, et al. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109398 (2022)

# Federal and State Laws: Pill Presses

Federal laws that limit access to pill presses exist, but the laws largely rely on self-reporting when machines are bought or sold. Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), anyone in a transaction involving a pill press is required to, “keep a record of the transaction for two years after the date of the transaction” and provide this record to the US Attorney General via DEA Diversion Control Division. The registration requirement does little to deter clandestine pill press operations from starting up, however, because illegitimate sellers and buyers can simply ignore these requirements. Thus, as a practical matter, the registration mandate only serves as an additional penalty for counterfeit drug operations once discovered by law enforcement.



The CSA partially addresses the registration loophole by making pill presses that are possessed or transferred in violation of the Act subject to forfeiture. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the authority to seize pill presses that are imported into the U.S. without registration. The sheer numbers of packages that go through U.S. customs make enforcement difficult, and the problem is exacerbated by foreign sellers who advertise the ability to get shipments past inspectors. For example, pill press sellers may break the machines down into multiple packages, describing them on manifests as “toys,” “grain mill mixing machine[s],” or “laboratory glassware.”

Under the CSA, it is against the law to be in possession of a pill press, if the owner “know[s], intend[s], or ha[s] reasonable cause to believe, that [the pill press] will be used to manufacture a controlled substance or listed chemical.” Under current law, an individual who illegally possesses a pill press or die mold is subject to up to four years of imprisonment, a fine, or both. In recent years, several federal legislators offered bipartisan legislation to place stiffer penalties on the illegal possession of pill presses. None of the bills were passed.

In 2019, several senators introduced the Criminalizing Abused Substance Templates Act of 2019. This bill would have made it a crime to knowingly possess a die mold with the intent to manufacture a counterfeit Schedule I or II substance. A violator would have been subject to a prison term of up to 20 years and a fine.

Most states rely on federal laws related to pill presses to keep bad actors in check. Only four states—Florida, Hawaii, Texas and Utah— have enacted their own laws involving pill presses. A bill proposed in January 2020 in Washington State would have made it unlawful for an individual to possess, purchase, deliver, sell, or possess with intent to sell a tableting or encapsulating machine knowing that it would be used to manufacture a controlled substance, other than marijuana. The bill, however, failed to advance. Wisconsin currently does not have a law that regulates pill presses.

# “Rainbow” Fentanyl

Since August 2022, DEA and our law enforcement partners seized brightly colored fentanyl and fentanyl pills in 26 states. Dubbed “rainbow fentanyl” in the media, this trend appears to be a new method used by drug cartels to sell highly addictive and potentially deadly fentanyl made to look like candy to children and young people. It should be worth noting that selling fentanyl pills deliberately to children would be incredibly risky and would be bad for business for the drug traffickers as young children typically lack access to the kind of cash that makes for good repeat customers. The real public health concern is dealers shaping and coloring pills to look like fentanyl-free opioids from a pharmacy.



This brightly colored fentanyl is being seized in multiple forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that resembles sidewalk chalk. According to the CDC, 107,622 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

## Marijuana and Fentanyl

Fentanyl mixed with marijuana is very dangerous for recreational marijuana users. This mix could turn a drug that is virtually impossible to overdose on deadly. It's very difficult to determine whether you're using fentanyl-laced marijuana. Fentanyl doesn't look or smell like anything, so visually, it's impossible to identify. While the incidence of fentanyl-laced marijuana is still thought to be relatively low, people who are in areas where this mix has been found should be particularly careful if considering using marijuana. It remains to be seen if the combination is a new trend or if it is a localized incident.



In Wisconsin, Racine Police Department issued a warning to the public have they discovered that locally recovered marijuana was laced with fentanyl. There have been multiple other reports around the state of Wisconsin of marijuana being laced with fentanyl.

Fentanyl doesn't look or smell like anything, so visually, it's impossible to identify. The most reliable way to detect fentanyl in marijuana or other substances is to use fentanyl test strips. Earlier this year, this test strips became legalized in Wisconsin and it allows for drug users to test their product for the presence of fentanyl.

# Drinking and the Holidays

Many of us look forward to celebrations during the holidays, yet it is also a time when some people are more likely to drink beyond their limits than at other times of the year. A survey found that 47% of men and 40% of women binge drink during Christmas and the New Year's Eve Season. What leads to the excessive drinking is a variety of different things:

- **Holiday Stress:** While the holiday season is meant to bring feelings of love and cheer, it's also a very stressful time for some. A study found that at least 80% of Americans are moderately to overwhelmingly stressed during this time of year. What contributes to that stress can include: doing too much, spending too much money, too much time with family and not enough time with family.
- **Alcohol-centered activities:** The Holiday season is the time of food and drinks. And many families attend a variety of different family events that often times have alcohol present at them. About 50% of people say that alcohol is the center role at their family's holiday gatherings.
- **Peer Pressure to drink:** A study found that when around family, 22% of people who attended a holiday party felt pressured to drink. There is that social pressure of wanting to fit in with those at the party and not to be looked down at by family members.



## How to Enjoy a Safe Holidays

- **Pace yourself:** Avoid binge-drinking. Spread out the consumption of your drinks, consider one drink an hour.
- **Don't forget to eat food:** Starch-heavy foods soak up the alcohol and will mitigate the effects of alcohol on your system.
- **Secure a designated driver:** Keep in mind that a designated driver stays 100 percent sober --- not the person who drank the least.
- **Create new traditions:** Celebrate the fact you are reestablishing your own life. As you affirm your new self on these festive days, you are choosing to celebrate the new, better, clean and sober life that you have created.
- **Service, not self:** When we can focus on others, we find more joy and gratitude. So look for ways to think about and serve others. Make a special family recipe and deliver to friends. Donate your time at a homeless shelter, food pantry, or soup kitchen.

# ULTIMATE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

# GOALS SHEET

GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_

GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_

GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_

GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Subgoals: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

Subgoals: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

Subgoals: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

Subgoals: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	T	E	M	Z	S	L	K	J	G	F	D	S	A	Z	T	R	E	A	T	S
T	I	N	S	E	L	R	A	S	D	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	B	V	C	X
Q	A	W	E	R	T	Y	A	Y	U	I	O	P	T	R	E	E	C	L	K	J	F	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	H
N	D	B	T	A	X	E	S	I	V	C	X	Z	A	S	D	F	V	F	L	G	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	G	H
B	V	N	A	T	I	V	E	N	S	M	L	K	N	O	E	L	J	H	I	G	D	F	S	A	Q	W	E	R	T
E	E	W	Q	A	S	D	F	G	H	O	H	J	K	L	P	O	I	U	G	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
R	N	T	S	A	N	T	A	T	Y	U	N	U	I	I	O	P	M	N	H	B	V	H	C	X	Z	Z	X	C	L
E	T	W	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	W	Q	S	A	S	D	F	G	H	T	J	K	L	R	M	N	B	V	V	E
Z	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	L	K	S	J	H	G	F	I	D	S	A	Q	I
G	H	J	K	L	P	W	I	N	T	E	R	O	I	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	U	Y	T	R	S	E	W	Q	G
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	L	P	O	I	U	Y	T	Y	R	E	W	Q	A	S	D	F	G	T	H	J	H
D	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	S	A	Z	X	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	C	V	B	N	M	L	I	K	J
Q	W	P	H	O	T	O	S	W	E	R	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	Z	X	A	C
T	R	E	W	Q	A	S	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	B	V	N
O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	Y	U	U	I	I	T	U	R	K	E	Y	O	P	M	N
H	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	J	C	A	R	D	S	K	L	P	O	O	I	U	U	Y	T	T	R	E	W	Q
G	F	D	S	C	A	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	L	K	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	K	J	H	G	S
S	A	W	E	R	E	L	V	E	S	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	M	N	B	V	C	R	X	Z	A	S	D	G	F
M	S	L	D	F	H	L	H	J	K	L	L	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	E	A	Q	W	E	R	N	R	T
I	C	E	X	Z	A	S	E	D	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	F	G	H	G	J	K	L	P	O	I	I	U	Y
N	V	V	B	N	M	L	K	B	J	H	G	F	D	S	A	Q	W	E	N	R	T	Y	U	I	K	O	P	M	N
C	Z	A	A	W	E	R	T	Y	R	U	I	O	P	L	K	J	H	A	G	F	D	S	A	C	Z	X	C	V	B
E	Z	R	X	C	V	B	N	M	L	A	K	J	H	G	F	D	M	S	A	Q	W	E	O	R	T	Y	U	I	O
P	V	T	B	C	A	R	O	L	S	N	T	F	M	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	R	T	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P
I	Z	X	C	V	B	G	I	F	T	S	B	E	N	M	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	S	Y	U	I	O	P	L	K	J
E	A	N	G	E	L	S	L	O	O	I	U	Y	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	U	Y	T	R	E	W	L	Q	K	J
Q	S	C	R	O	O	G	E	W	E	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	L	K	J	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	J
T	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	T	R	E	W	Q	A	S	D	F	F	G	H
J	O	Y	T	R	O	A	R	I	N	G	F	I	R	E	T	Y	U	H	E	L	P	E	R	S	U	M	I	L	K
P	O	I	U	U	G	O	O	D	W	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	Z	X	C	V	B	B	N	M	P	O	I

Advent	Decorations	Native	Santa	Turkey
Angels	Elves	Nativity	Scrooge	Winter
Bethlehem	Gifts	Noel	Sleigh	Wisemen
Candles	Goodwill	Ornaments	Snowflake	Wreaths
Cards	Helpers	Photos	Snowman	
Carols	Holidays	Presents	Stockings	
Celebrate Chimney	Joy	Pudding	Taxes	
Christian	Lights	Reindeer	Travel	
Christmas	Milk	Raisons	Tinsel	
Cookies	Mince Pie	Roaring Fire	Tree	
December	Mistletoe	Rudolph	Treats	



McFarland is a small community south of Madison in Dane County. In January of 2017, a group of concerned citizens came together to discuss substance abuse problems in the McFarland area. The McFarland RADAR is a result of these meetings

**We are comprised of local representatives from schools, businesses, churches, village administration as well as parents, and youth—all working together to promote healthy lifestyles**

**For more information go to: <https://www.radarmc.com/>**



For time, day and place of meetings, please contact Cathy Kalina at [CathyK@fsmad.org](mailto:CathyK@fsmad.org)

*The McFarland RADAR (RADAR stands for Relevant Alcohol & Drug Awareness Resources) Coalition works to develop, implement and support environmental strategies to reduce substance abuse.*

*We believe by working together, we can nurture social and environmental changes to make the McFarland area a safer and healthier place, brightening the future of our children, youth and families.*

### **McFarland RADAR Mission Statement**

***“The mission of McFarland’s RADAR Coalition is to promote healthy lifestyles in the McFarland area through alcohol and drug abuse prevention and education efforts.”***

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

We are asking you to give the gift of time. Make a difference in the lives of our youth and our community by

1. Working with us in providing support for planning, project management and awareness campaigns
2. Helping with coalition events, conferences, workshops, and fairs held throughout the year.
3. Being a voice for change in our community, it is time to come together and be that force for change in the McFarland area.