



Upcoming Events:

- World AIDS Day
Dec. 1, 2019
- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Day
Dec. 1, 2019
- Special Education Day
Dec. 2, 2019
- National Handwashing Awareness Week
Dec. 1-7, 2019
- National Influenza Vaccination Week
Dec. 1-7, 2019
- National Human Rights Day
Dec. 10, 2019



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"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn"

- Benjamin Franklin



How easy fentanyl moves around the world

The photo that flashed onto the courtroom screen showed a young man dead on his bedroom floor. In a trash can next to the body was what prosecutors said caused his death: a U.S. Postal Service envelope.

The envelope had 10 blue pills inside, the markings of pharmaceutical-grade oxycodone stamped on the surface. The young man took two, crushed and snorted them. But the pills were poison, containing grains of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid. The envelope was postmarked from the suburbs of Salt Lake City.

That's where a clean-cut, 29-year-old college dropout and Eagle Scout named Aaron Shamo made himself a millionaire by building a fentanyl trafficking empire with not much more than his computer and the help of a few friends.

Shamo climbed onto the witness stand at his federal trial and offered an unprecedented window into how fentanyl bought and sold online has transformed the global drug trade. There was no underground tunnels or gangland murders or anything that a wall at the southern border might stop. Shamo called himself a "white-collar drug dealer," drew in co-workers from his time at eBay and peppered his messages to them with smiley-face emoji's.

How he and his friends managed to flood the country with a half-million fake oxycodone pills reveals the ease with which fentanyl now moves around the world. It is so easy to transport, experts say, large-scale traffickers no longer require sophisticated networks to send it to any corner of the globe. All they need is a mailbox, internet access and people with an appetite for opioids.

Shamo detailed how white powder up to 100 times stronger than morphine was bought online from a laboratory in China and arrived in Utah via international mail; it was shaped into perfect-looking replicas of oxycodone tablets and resold on the black markets. Then it was routed back into the postal system in thousands of packages addressed to homes across the U.S.

"Fentanyl will be the bubonic plague," said Mike

Vigil, former chief of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration, warning that any country with a prescription opioid problem could soon find itself following American footsteps. "It's just a matter of time."

By the time a seized package heading from

China to Utah led investigators to Shamo, he had already turned fentanyl into at least 458,946 potentially poisonous pills. In a single batch, one pill might have no fentanyl and another enough to kill a person instantly. One agent at his trial compared it to making chocolate-chip cookies, only if too many chips ended up in a "cookie," whoever ate it dropped dead.

The DEA estimates a kilogram of fentanyl synthesized for a few thousand dollars could make a dealer more than \$1 million.

Shamo learned what he needed on the web, searching with queries like "how to ship drugs." It was easy. He expanded, ordering drugs in bulk, breaking them down and selling at markup, all while barely having to leave the house. He used the postal system like a drug mule. He recruited friends, offering them \$100 to have parcels mailed to their homes, no questions asked.

He bought a pill press, ordered the sedative alprazolam online from India and watched YouTube videos to figure out how to turn it into fake Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication. They mixed it up by shaking it in mason jars. Then a local drug dealer made a suggestion to Shamo that would change the course of his life: There was a fortune to be made in producing fake oxycodone. He named his business Pharma-Master. Sales skyrocketed. He started selling thousands of pills a week, charging around \$10 each.

Meanwhile, a suspicious customs agent at the LA International Airport flagged a box from Shanghai, China, pulled it off the belt and looked inside. The agent found 98.7 grams of fentanyl powder — enough to make almost 100,000 pills. The box was destined for Utah. That was the beginning of the end.

Veteran vice officers said they had never seen so many pills, even in international operations. In total, they packed up over 74,000 fentanyl pills awaiting distribution. In Shamo's home, agents totaled up more than \$1.2 million, not including the money he had tied up in bitcoin or bags he'd stashed with his family.

He was convicted of 12 counts, including the so-called "kingpin charge" typically reserved for drug lords like El Chapo and carries a mandatory life sentence. The bust was one of the largest operations in the country in 2016. But the fentanyl trade has only grown more sophisticated since.

Signs of Use

- Drowsiness or nodding
- Constricted or pinpoint pupils
- Agitation
- Depressed respiration
- Confusion
- Euphoria

Signs of Overdose

- Severe drowsiness and inability to be awoken
- Slow heartbeat
- Seizures
- Respiratory reduction
- Low blood pressure

Slang terms and texting phrases to be aware of

- Fading (slang for the high)
- Fet and Fetty
- Ice cream
- Chinese food
- White 80's
- Phantom 100
- A-215's



ILLICIT FENTANYL



OPIOID Overdose Crisis

Every day, more than 130 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total “economic burden” of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement.

What we know

- * Roughly 21 to 29% of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.
- * Between 8 and 12% develop an opioid use disorder.
- * An estimated 4-6% who misuse prescription opioids transition to heroin.
- * About 80% of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.
- * Increased awareness and the use of naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses helped lead to a small drop in deaths from 2017-2018. However, we still have much work to do!

Gambling and Teens

In the digital age, young people are exposed to gambling more than ever before. In some countries, gambling is regarded alongside drug addiction, smoking, and drinking. Moreover, all these behaviors are often mutually reinforcing.

We can see how gambling finds a way to creep into lives of young people, sometimes disguised as something else. It is very easy to lure eager players. One of the draws of gambling is the promise of great rewards and the risk that looms over as you let the chips fall where they may. Unfortunately, “hot streaks” never last long and sooner or later, problems happen. Gambling encourages reckless and irresponsible behavior and inhibits the ability to properly assess risks and consequences.

- 5% of teens, ages 12-17 meet one or more criteria of having a gambling problem
- 10-14% are at risk of developing an addiction, which means they already show signs of losing control over their gambling behavior.
- 60-80% of HS students report having gambled for money during the past year

The point is: gambling addiction in teens is a red flag that could signal that there are some other, potentially bigger underlying problems in the life of a young person.



INTRODUCING THE
STACKED DECK PROGRAM

Stacked Deck is a gambling prevention, evidenced-based program. It is the only program that is proven to actually change students behavior, decreasing both gambling and problem gambling. Its purpose is to help educate students about the various facets of gambling, including its role in today's culture, how the principles of chance are important when playing these games, and how to recognize the signs of problem gambling. Each lesson is designed for a 45 minutes to 1 hour class period. There are 6 sessions in total. Call now and request Stacked Deck at your school! **For more information: 610-443-1595**



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