

Statistics

- There are 35,000 – 50,000 active online "pharmacies" operating at any one time. 97% of "these pharmacies" are actually rogue websites operating out of compliance with applicable laws and standards.
(Sources: www.LegitScript.com, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy website, "Buying Medicine Online" - <http://goo.gl/zGfnLY>)
- 62% of medicines purchased online are fake or substandard.
(European Alliance for Access to Safe Medicines, "The Counterfeiting Superhighway," 2008 PDF - <http://goo.gl/ju16UV>)
- 36 million Americans have purchased at least one prescription drug online without a prescription.
(The Partnership for Drug Free Kids research reported in Consumer Reports, "1 in 6 Americans have Purchased Drugs Online Without a Prescription," December 7, 2010 - <http://goo.gl/9r2Ula>)
- The harms and dangers of illegal online drug sellers is not a localized issue.
 - **Japan:** While only 1 online pharmacy (<0.1%) complies with Japanese FDA/MHLW regulations, three large criminal networks control 44% of all Internet pharmacies targeting Japan.
 - **China:** China continues to top charts regarding the number of 'counterfeit incidents' while seeing consistent increases in total revenue from online pharmaceutical sales (topping 6 billion yuan).
 - **European Union (EU):** At any one time, in excess of 30,000 illegal pharmacy websites are accessible by the European population; EU Customs has reported a doubling of shipments stopped, with detentions of trafficked items up 82% (69% of the articles detained were medicines).

(Source: ASOP EU, "Only 20% of Europeans Associate Counterfeiting with Medicines," May 15, 2014 - <http://goo.gl/ES3jO1>)

- 50% of drugs sold online without a physical address are counterfeit
(Source: World Health Organization, Fact Sheet, May 2012 - <http://goo.gl/kdMpZC>)
- In 2015, 115 countries participated in Operation Pangea VIII resulting in a record seizure of 20.7 million fake and illicit medications such as blood pressure medications, lifestyle medications, cancer drugs, and nutritional supplements.

(Source: Interpol, "Operation Pangea VIII", <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Pharmaceutical-crime/Operations/Operation-Pangea>)

ASOP GLOBAL | ALLIANCE FOR SAFE ONLINE PHARMACIES



The uniting purpose of the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Global is to protect patient safety globally and ensure patient access to safe and legitimate online pharmacies in accordance with applicable laws.

ASOP GLOBAL | ALLIANCE FOR SAFE ONLINE PHARMACIES

www.safeonlinerox.com

Contact info@safeonlinerox.com for more information.

www.safeonlinerox.com

About ASOP Global

The Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Global (ASOP Global) is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization dedicated to improving patient safety on the Internet worldwide.

ASOP Global members include nonprofit organizations, pharmacists and pharmacies, other healthcare providers, brand and generic pharmaceutical companies, governments and Internet commerce companies. Please visit www.safeonlinerx.com and www.asop.eu for a complete list of ASOP Global participants.

ASOP Global believes that patients deserve access to safe medicines.

We analyze, educate, advocate and collaborate to globally to make the Internet safer for patients. We currently engage in work in the U.S., E.U. and Asia.

Join Us to Protect Patients Globally

- Everyone has a role to play to protect patients online, including public health organizations, trade associations, health professionals, policymakers, law enforcement, industry and patients.
- ASOP Global is the only nonprofit organization solely dedicated to making the Internet safer for patients globally.



Join ASOP Global to be part of the solution.

Patient Harms

Patients have been harmed and in some cases killed by unsafe medicines purchased from illegal online drug sellers. Powdered concrete, chalk, antifreeze, tin, arsenic, and boric acid have been found in medicines sold by online drug sellers.

Recent real life examples:

- On April 12, 2015, Eloise Parry died after consuming “diet pills” that she purchased over the Internet. The police are investigating the case and believe the pills contain the highly toxic substance, dinitrophenol or DNP.
(“Warnings after student ‘diet-pills’ death” *Yahoo! News*, April 21, 2015, <http://yhoo.it/1T93gWM>)
- On April 23, 2013, Sarah Houston, a 23-year old medical student in the United Kingdom obsessed with her weight purchased DNP, a deadly diet pill, through an online drug seller. The pill, sold as a weight loss aid through many illicit online pharmacies, is actually a pesticide with lethal consequences to humans. Ms. Houston died the day after a bout of breathlessness, icteric sclera and hyperthermia, symptoms she had previously experienced.
(“Banned slimming drug kills medical student: Coroner attacks online dealers who target the vulnerable” *The Daily Mail*, United Kingdom, April 22, 2013, <http://dailym.ai/1nTvbnv>)
- On April 4, 2012, a mother and son in Los Angeles were looking for cold medication. They purchased and fell victim to a counterfeit drug “vitamin injection.” The victim’s heart rate increased rapidly and the victim experienced severe headaches, dramatic weight loss, blackouts and numbness in the lips. The victim was eventually hospitalized.
(“Cracking Down on Counterfeit Drugs,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 4, 2012, <http://bit.ly/1T951n1>)

Protect Yourself

- **Get Informed:** learn more about the issue at www.safeonlinerx.com and at www.asop.edu
- **Be Safe:** Avoid websites that offer “too good to be true” prices; allow you to buy prescription medicines without a prescription or only by completing an online questionnaire; offer to ship drugs worldwide; or send unsolicited emails offering medicines
- **Buy Smart:** Check out the pharmacy website at www.legitscript.com
- **Check the Domain:** Look to the right of the dot for the *.pharmacy* domain.

