



CBP Seizes Over \$15.5M in Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals in FY 2020

Through October 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized over **410** shipments of counterfeit pharmaceuticals. The seized merchandise is estimated to have a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of over **\$15.5 million**.

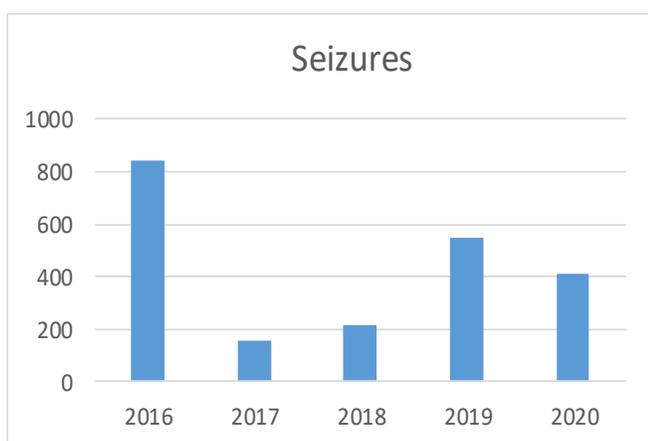
As consumers look for more convenient and affordable methods of acquiring medicines, many have turned to the internet. However, doing so comes with the risk of purchasing counterfeit pharmaceuticals.



Unmarked blue pills seized at the port. CBP photo

Counterfeit pharmaceuticals may not function as intended or may cause other harm. Specifically, such medicines are not required to comply with the same sanitary manufacturing conditions or quality controls as genuine medicines produced in an approved facility, making consumption of these medicines potentially dangerous. While advertised as a legitimate product, a counterfeit or unapproved version of a drug may result in exposure to pills that contain harmful ingredients, inaccurate dosages, or no active ingredients at all.

Moreover, such purchases by unsuspecting consumers can also make them vulnerable to financial fraud. By providing criminals with one's name, address, and credit card information, this information can be used to unknowingly fund organized crime. Accordingly, consumers should take care to protect their health and their wallet.



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