

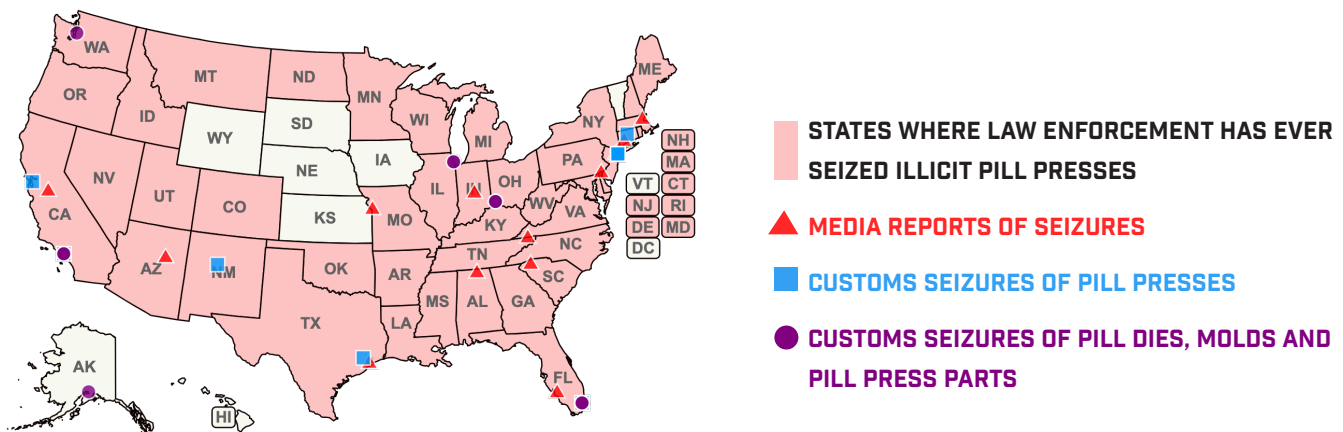
PSM PILL PRESS UPDATE, FEBRUARY – JULY 2026



Illicit pill presses are an engine for counterfeit medicine production, creating fake prescription pills with fentanyl or methamphetamine, which have harmed Americans for over a decade, but also fake blood thinners, substandard Viagra, and bootlegged anxiety medicine.

Since 2019, illicit pill presses have been reported in 42 states and in Washington, D.C., and public sources—which only show a fraction of illicit pill press traffic—make it clear that the trade continues to be a problem in the U.S.

PILL PRESS SEIZURES REPORTED BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND JULY 2026



INTERDICTION

Between February and July 2026, the media covered pill press seizures in 13 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

In April, the DEA shared the results of phase II of its Fentanyl Free America initiative, announcing that it had [seized 29 pill presses between January 12 and February 10, 2026](#), including two industrial-scale machines in Tennessee.

Forfeiture records report customs seizures of 16 pill presses, six capsule-filling machines, 11 ambiguously labeled pill press “components” or “parts,” and over 290 pill dies and molds in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington. While these findings indicate a similar geographic spread, the total number of seizures is lower than what we documented in our [January–June 2025 report](#). Forfeiture records during that period detailed 32 pill presses, seven machines for filling capsules, nine shipments of equipment components, and more than 300 dies across 11 states.

NOTABLE CASES

After a six-week trial, a Dominican man and a New York man were convicted in June of running a [criminal enterprise that manufactured counterfeit controlled pills—including fake oxycodone and Adderall—in residential New York City basements](#). Over two and a half years, they used online pharmacy storefronts



to sell over a million pills to thousands of victims across all 50 U.S. states, including a 45-year-old veteran who died after taking counterfeit oxycodone she purchased in February 2024.

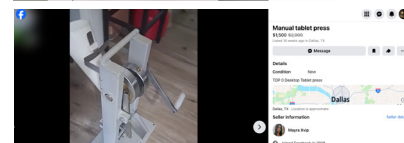
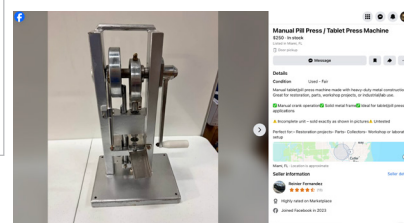
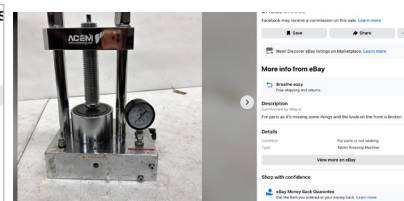
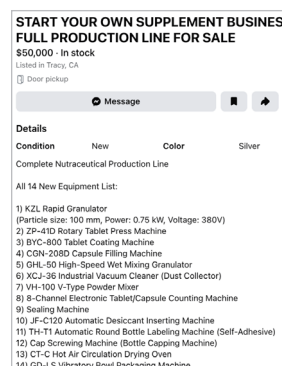


In May, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida charged a Chinese national and a Las Vegas man with importing protonitazene from China to the U.S. and [pressing it into counterfeit pills for national distribution](#). The Chinese government worked with the DEA on the investigation, arresting the Chinese national and a shipper, and seizing 10 parcels of controlled substances. The cross-border cooperation is a hopeful change from other international cases in which drug traffickers have been out of reach of prosecution.

 FOLLOW OUR [ONGOING FEED OF PILL PRESS NEWS](#).

THIRD-PARTY PILL PRESS SALES

In January, we reported that [Amazon](#), [eBay](#), [Alibaba](#), and [Google](#) were working to suppress pill press sales on their sites, while Facebook Marketplace had no such restrictions. **A cursory search shows little change:** searches for “tablet presses” within 500 miles of San Francisco, California, Miami, Florida, and Austin, Texas yielded listings for second-hand machines and, notably, a listing for [a full supplement production line](#).



Repercussions for third-party platforms continue to emerge. On July 1, 2026, Alibaba [agreed to pay \\$600 million to resolve allegations](#) that it violated the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by failing to prevent the sale of illegal pharmaceuticals, controlled substances, listed chemicals, and pill presses via Alibaba.com and AliExpress.com into the U.S. between January 2016 and December 2024.

LEGISLATION

In July, the House Energy & Commerce Committee consolidated pill-press-focused bills [H.R. 5880](#) and [H.R. 7184](#) into [H.R. 8005, the Stop Pills That Kill Act](#), creating a combined bill that would:

- Require serialization of new or newly transferred tableting machines and encapsulating machines
- Increase criminal penalties for manufacturing counterfeit pills made with fentanyl or fentanyl analogues, and
- Create new criminal prohibitions for manufacturing, distributing, importing, exporting, or possessing pill press equipment with the intent to manufacture illicit controlled substances.

State legislatures in [Illinois](#), Massachusetts ([1](#), [2](#)), and [New York](#) have not advanced pill press bills introduced earlier this year.

Next update: August 2026–January 2027 data will be reported in February 2027.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PILL PRESSES, REFER TO OUR PILL PRESS PAGE AT [HTTPS://SAFEDR.ORG/ILLEGALPILLPRESSES](https://safedr.org/illegalpillpresses).

