Every day, nearly one million packages are shipped to the United States from foreign posts without adequate security screening. Many of these packages contain deadly synthetic drugs and are increasingly contributing to the opioid epidemic that kills approximately 78 people every single day. Recent studies have proven this vulnerability in the postal system makes it easy for powerful, deadly substances like carfentanil to reach U.S. shores. Americans for Securing All Packages (ASAP) is committed to closing the loophole which allows synthetic opioids to reach communities across the United States through the global postal system. To underscore the need to close this loophole now, we have compiled a snapshot of recent news, facts and updates related to the epidemic below.

**Reports & Studies**
A new Associated Press investigation found Chinese vendors are openly selling carfentanil – one of the most lethal opioids – for worldwide export. The report states carfentanil and other dangerous synthetic opioids are shipped to the United States easily through the loophole in the global postal system. According to an overview of the study,

“Several vendors recommended shipping by EMS, the express mail service of state-owned China Postal Express & Logistics Co. Several vendors recommended shipping by EMS, the express mail service of state-owned China Postal Express & Logistics Co. ‘EMS is a little slow than Fedex or DHL but very safe, more than 99% pass rate,’ a Yuntu Chemical Co. representative wrote in an email. EMS declined comment. A Yuntu representative hung up the phone when contacted by the AP and did not reply to emails. Soon after, the company’s website vanished.”

A new CNN report entitled Heroin: The Poisoning of America examines the importation of heroin and fentanyl and explores precautionary measures Customs and Border Patrol can take to stop the epidemic in its tracks.

**Executive Action**
A September 2016 alert released by the USPS Office of Inspector General outlined issues regarding the postal service’s work with Customs and Border Protection to properly screen inbound international packages. The alert stated that “significant risk exists to the U.S. through the mail importation of illicit goods, narcotics, and the possibility of radioactive materials that could pose a threat to national security.”

Additionally, in an effort to curb the opioid misuse epidemic, this month the Drug Enforcement Administration announced plans to reduce production of prescription opioids by 25 percent in 2017.

**Legislative Action**
Wall Street Journal calling on congress to pass the bill, which would address the major security loophole that allows deadly, illegal drugs to enter the U.S. through the global postal service.

Rep. Daniel Donovan (R-NY) introduced the Comprehensive Fentanyl Control Act, to increase penalties on fentanyl traffickers and make it illegal to mail pill presses, which are used to make and lace deadly drugs, to unauthorized users.

In the News

Trump is ‘doubling down’ on the opioid crisis with promises of expanded treatment (STAT News 10/15)
Donald Trump delved into new details of his plan to deal with nation’s worsening opioid epidemic on Saturday, going beyond his earlier promise to “build a wall” by pledging to crack down on prescription drug abuse while offering help to those struggling with addiction. [...] Trump name-checked fentanyl, a particularly powerful synthetic opioid growing in popularity, and pledged to combat its importation from China and other countries. Link

Opioid epidemic’s newest killer is 10,000 times stronger than morphine (Boston Globe 10/16)
An extremely powerful drug used as an elephant tranquilizer has quickly become a new killer in the nation’s opioid epidemic, and New England authorities and health workers are bracing for its arrival. [...] The Drug Enforcement Administration has issued a nationwide alert about the drug, which its acting chief called “crazy dangerous.” In Massachusetts, State Police have warned their crime lab staff about how to handle carfentanil during analysis. Even inhaling the drug or absorbing it through a cut can be fatal. Link

Deadly Drug Fentanyl Spikes Opioid Epidemic (Newsweek 10/12)
Mexican drug cartels have responded to ever-soaring demand for prescription drugs like the painkillers oxycodone and Norco by manufacturing cheaper alternatives using fentanyl, which they buy from China, along with the undeclared pill presses necessary to stamp out the fakes. China is the primary source of fentanyl sent to Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, according to the DEA. The surge of fentanyl use has had deadly repercussions, with 700 people dying of the drug between late 2013 and late 2014, according to the DEA. Link

China Refuses to Stop Producing Deadly ‘Carfentanil’ Drug Killing Tens of Thousands in the US (Yibada 10/8)
Chinese firms are still producing and exporting to the United States a death-dealing drug called "carfentanil" that's banned in the United States and other countries as a chemical weapon of mass destruction. The central government in Beijing has so far taken no steps to comply with a request from Washington that Beijing immediately curb production of this deadly synthetic opioid, most of which is still being produced by Chinese firms in mainland China. Link

Chinese vendors openly offer one of the most lethal opioids for worldwide export (Associated Press 10/7)
It’s one of the strongest opioids in circulation, so deadly an amount smaller than a poppy seed can kill a person. Until July, when reports of carfentanil overdoses began to surface in the US, the substance was best known for knocking out moose and elephants — or as a chemical weapon. Link

The Pill Makers Next Door: How America’s Opioid Crisis Is Spreading (Wall Street Journal 10/5)
Around 2013, roughly when authorities were cracking down on pain clinics that sold vast quantities of prescription opioids, bootleg fentanyl started making a comeback on the streets. Some U.S. buyers
today are ordering fentanyl online directly from Chinese labs. Catering to the same demand pain clinics once served, new drugmakers are turning fentanyl powder into tablets that often are externally identical to legitimate prescription drugs. Link

Warrants: Park City teens bought U-47700 drug online (Park Record 10/4)
A pair of search warrants unsealed Monday show how a pair of Park City teens may have purchased the synthetic opioid U-47700, shedding light on the police investigations of the deaths of two other teens last month. The girl told police that one of the boys had ordered the package, which contained white powder in a clear bag, over the dark web from China, the warrants state. The dark web is a section of the internet accessed through special software and commonly used to buy and sell drugs. Link

When you think of drug trafficking, the neighborhood mailman probably isn’t what springs to mind. But thanks to archaic international rules and outdated systems, the U.S. Postal Service is unwittingly facilitating the spread of illicit pharmaceuticals—at taxpayers’ expense. Link

Deadly Opioid Overwhelms First Responders and Crime Labs in Ohio (NPR 9/25)
Jamie Landrum has been a police officer for two years in District 3 on the west side of the Cincinnati. In late August, the city was hit by 174 overdoses in six days. Landrum says officers were scarce. "We were literally going from one heroin overdose, and then being on that one, and hearing someone come over [the radio] and say, 'I have no more officers left,' " Landrum says. Three more people overdosed soon after that. Link

Landrith: Late or lost mail just part of the Postal Service's problem (Roanoke Times 9/18)
The Lexington Institute highlighted the large amounts of synthetic drugs like fentanyl, produced in China and shipped through the U.S. Postal Service, unbeknownst to the Customs and Border and other federal security agencies. LegitScript, a group that works to make the internet pharmacy and health product sector safer and more transparent, found that the U.S. Postal Service is the “carrier of choice for illegal online pharmacies.” Out of 29 test purchases from illegal online pharmacies, all 29 packages reached their intended destinations through the U.S. Postal Service without being flagged or detected. Link

Thoughts on the Epidemic
“We are committed to making sure that no parent, family or community member has to deal with death or harm caused by counterfeit drugs peddled by illegal online drug sellers. Currently, the postal security gap in screening packages from foreign countries is fanning the flames of a crisis currently taking more lives than the HIV/AIDS epidemic,” said Libby Baney, Executive Director of the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Global.” Link

“It's a business – they're going to do everything they can to make money, and we're going to do everything we can to stop them,” said Gil Kerlikowske, US Customs and Border Protection Commissioner. Link

“It’s a runaway epidemic...It’s affecting everybody. All walks of life. It doesn’t make any difference where you come from or how much money you have, it's affecting everybody,” said Marion County Commissioner Randy Elliott of West Virginia. Link

The Proof
As shown across countless headlines in recent weeks, the opioid epidemic has been fueled by the availability of counterfeit, synthetic and often lethal drugs over the dark net. The following screenshots have been provided by SurfWatch Labs, an organization committed to ensuring the safety of all Americans in the digital age, to show just how easy it is to access deadly drugs over the internet.
pharmphil | User Profile

Pharmphil | 1815 | User Level 6
Positive feedback (last 12 months) 96%
Member since: May 23, 2015
Contracts: 3 in progress, 0 complete

Seller Feedback Ratings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1 month</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>76</td>
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Buyer Statistics

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total disputes / orders: 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total feedback left: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feedback left: 1 (0.0% positive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last online: Sep 14, 2010</td>
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</table>

Detailed seller ratings:
1. Pharmphil is amazing as is his product. He has so much integrity and is a true pleasure to do business with.
2. Last order was on time, and fast shipping!
3. Very nice guy, very reliable, very fast shipping to EUR super stealth, product is very good.
4. Top Fast, Fast ship 25 mg over on top of the 50 mg free. Can’t beat PP.

Total positive feedback: 958

Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Buyer / Price</th>
<th>Date / Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phantom is amazing as is his product. He has so much integrity and is a true pleasure to do business with.</td>
<td>USD 104.0000</td>
<td>Sep 11, 2016 10:26 View Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last order was on time, and fast shipping! 50 mg Fastral HCL 98% pure <strong>Special limited time offer: buy 1 get 1 free</strong>**</td>
<td>USD 70.0000</td>
<td>Sep 10, 2016 02:27 View Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very nice guy, very reliable, very fast shipping to EUR super stealth, product is very good. 10 mg Fastral HCL 98% pure <em><strong>SPECIAL BUY 1 GET 1 FREE</strong></em>**</td>
<td>USD 27.0000</td>
<td>Sep 9, 2016 01:07 View Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Fast, Fast ship 25 mg over on top of the 50 mg free. Can’t beat PP. 100 mg Fastral HCL 98% pure BONUS / get 50mg FREE with purchase (Lab tested)</td>
<td>USD 150.0000</td>
<td>Sep 5, 2016 11:24 View Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superior quality, best I’ve had hands down. Fantastic price for a great, pure product. Fast shipping early/morning with excellent stealth packaging. Great dealer, great products, highly recommend! 250 mg Fastral HCL 98% pure (Lab tested)</td>
<td>USD 201.0000</td>
<td>Sep 5, 2016 11:23 View Item</td>
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<td>155</td>
<td>USD 112.5000</td>
<td>Sep 5, 2016 11:22 View Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanks for being a super-awesome supplier!!</td>
<td>USD 112.5000</td>
<td>Sep 5, 2016 11:06 View Item</td>
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