

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission

Press Release



February 1, 2017

Contact: Leslie Tisdale

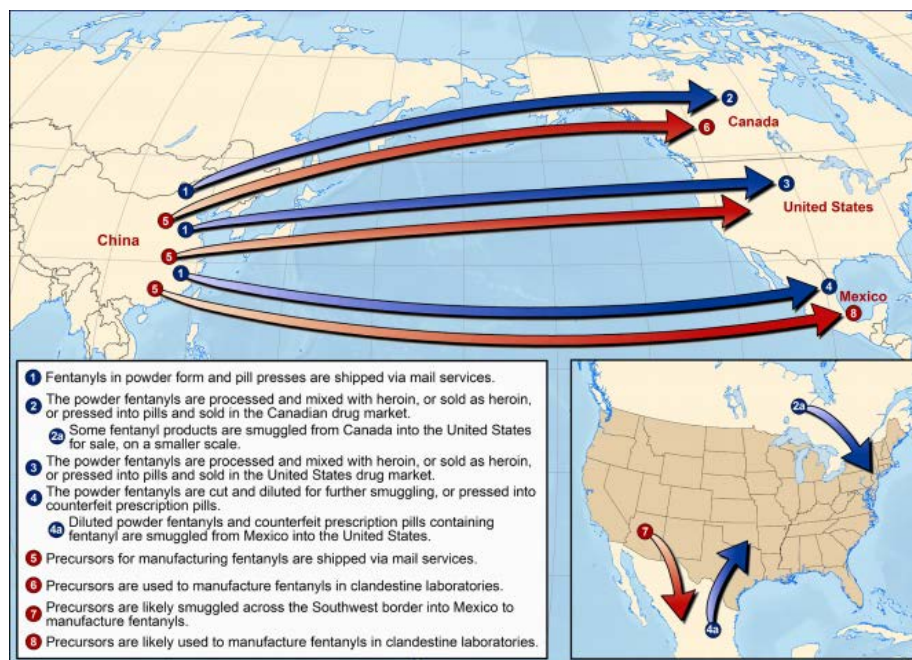
ltisdale@uscc.gov

202-624-1496

NEW STAFF REPORT: Fentanyl: China's Deadly Export to the United States

Washington, DC— Today, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a staff report entitled *Fentanyl: China's Deadly Export to the United States*. The report examines China's role as the primary source of fentanyl—a cheap, synthetically produced opioid—coming to the United States.

Illicit Fentanyl and Fentanyl Precursor Flows from China



Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, "Counterfeit Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyls: A Global Threat," July 2016, 3. <https://www.dea.gov/docs/Counterfeit%20Prescription%20Pills.pdf>.

Key Findings:

- Chemical flows from China have helped fuel a fentanyl crisis in the United States, with significant increases in U.S. opioid overdoses, deaths, and addiction rates occurring in the last several years.
- China is a global source of illicit fentanyl and other new psychoactive substances because the country's vast chemical and pharmaceutical industries are weakly regulated and poorly monitored.

- Chinese chemical exporters circumvent U.S. narcotic laws by exploiting unregulated online ordering systems, mislabeling chemical shipments, and modifying banned chemical substances to create new, not-yet-illegal substances.
- U.S. regulations prevent U.S. agencies from quickly adding new drugs and their ingredients to the list of banned and controlled chemicals. This creates an imminent health and safety threat due to a backlog of requests and delayed seizures of these dangerous substances.

###

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was created by Congress to report on the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China. For more information, visit www.uscc.gov.

Disclaimer: This paper is the product of professional research performed by staff of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, and was prepared at the request of the Commission to support its deliberations. Posting of the report to the Commission's website is intended to promote greater public understanding of the issues addressed by the Commission in its ongoing assessment of U.S.-China economic relations and their implications for U.S. security, as mandated by Public Law 106-398 and Public Law 113-291. However, the public release of this document does not necessarily imply an endorsement by the Commission, any individual Commissioner, or the Commission's other professional staff, of the views or conclusions expressed in this staff research report.