

OPIOID MONITORING INITIATIVE

****ALERT****

Counterfeit Colored Pills Circulating in Arizona Communities

****FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE****

TYPE: Public Bulletin Alert / Situational Awareness

DATE: August 15, 2022

SOURCES: Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AZ HIDTA)
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)
Phoenix Police Department (PPD)
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

ATTN: Public

This information is being shared with the public for situational awareness and safety purposes.

In early August, the Phoenix Police Department seized 39,000 counterfeit M-30 pills containing fentanyl. Among the counterfeit pills seized were pastel colored counterfeit M-30 pills. While the counterfeit blue M-30 is still the most frequently seized fentanyl pill in Arizona, law enforcement officials are seeing more of the pastel or bright multi-colored pills in communities. According to law enforcement, these counterfeit pills are being referred to as "rainbows" and "Skittles" like the candy. In Arizona, young adults and teenagers are overdosing on counterfeit pills disguised as M-30 Oxycodone. According to the DEA, fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.



Photo Credit: Phoenix Police Department

For more information, please contact the AZ Opioid Monitoring Initiative at omi@azhidta.org.

Arizona Opioid Monitoring Initiative (OMI)

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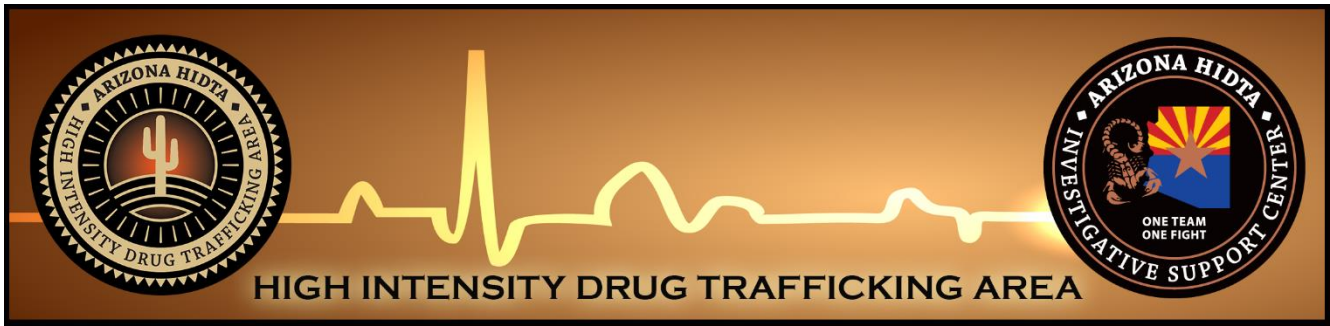


Photo Credit: Phoenix Police Department



Photo Credit: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Photo is being provided for informational purposes; not actual tablets seized in related stories in this bulletin.

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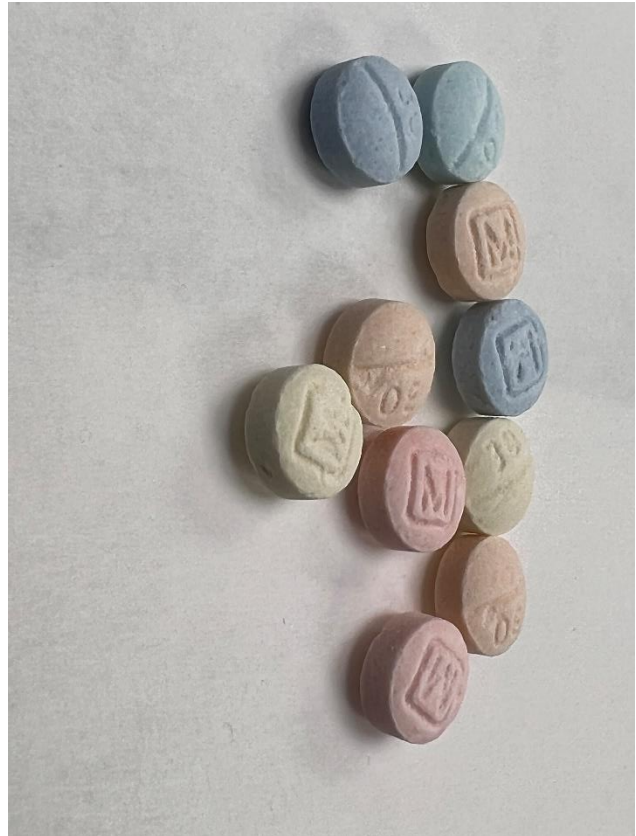
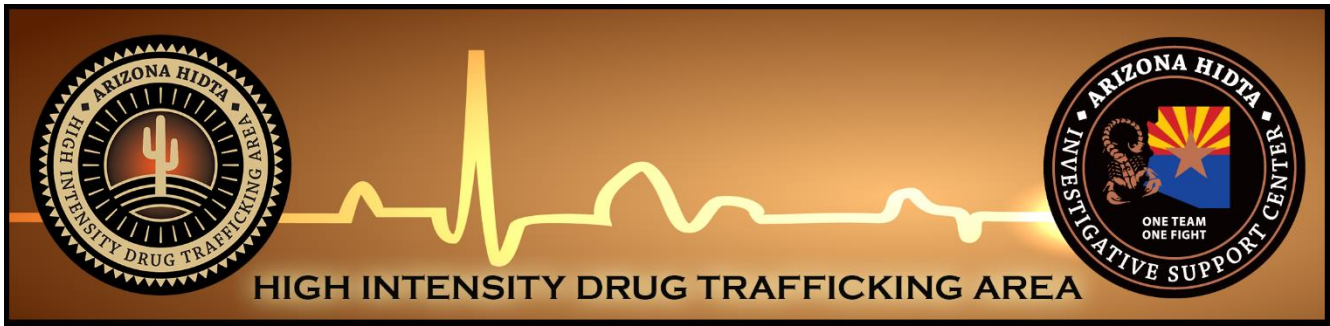


Photo Credit: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

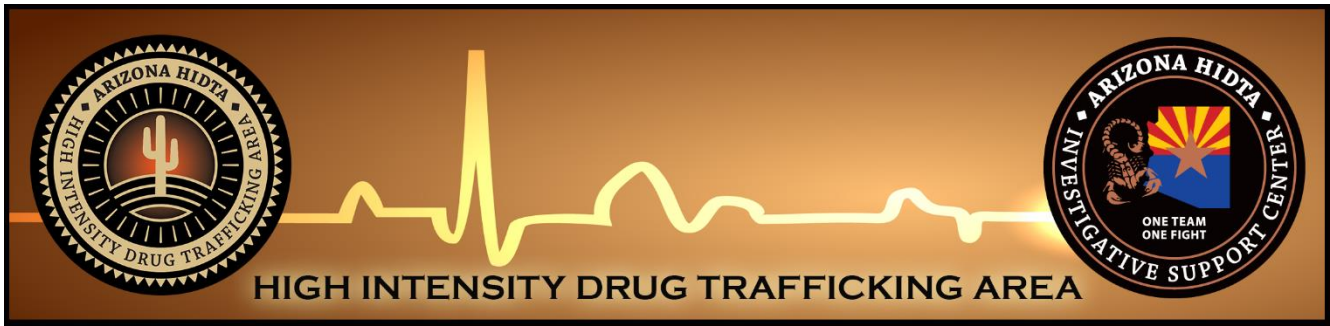
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The urgent message law enforcement wants to share with communities is the importance of parents talking to their kids about the dangers of drugs, including counterfeit pills. To learn more about the dangerous effects of drug abuse and how to talk to your kids, please go to [AZ HIDTA – eResources Center](#). [TalkNowAZ.com](#) is another educational resource for parents and community members to learn more about fentanyl, counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl, naloxone, and the Good Samaritan Law.

Arizona communities have access to free materials to help educate the public:

- **Arizona Community Toolkit: The Rise of Fentanyl – Saving Lives by Moving Communities from Understanding to Action.** Based on a public health/public safety approach, this toolkit offers well-accepted prevention approaches practitioners can use to reduce youth fentanyl and counterfeit pill use.

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- The toolkit is divided into three main sections that address counterfeit pills, fentanyl, naloxone, and the Good Samaritan Law.
- The toolkit is available in English/Spanish and can be reproduced and customized to fit the local needs of a community. Educational materials for youth and parents can be downloaded. To access the toolkit, go to saclaz.org ([Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona](http://saclaz.org)) and click on Toolkit.
- The Arizona Opioid Assistance and Referral (OAR) Line offers opioid information, resources, and referrals for providers and the public. Local medical professionals are available 24/7 to provide free, confidential services, including information about opioid dependence, withdrawal, and where to get help in Arizona by calling the hotline at **1-888-688-4222**. For more information, please go to [OAR Line website](http://oarl.org).
- 24/7 treatment is also available for those struggling with opioid use disorder. Arizona has four Opioid Treatment Centers of Excellence. The 24/7 centers serve Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) members, individuals with no insurance, and individuals with insurance that may not cover some services like Medication Assisted Treatment or Peer Support Services. For more information, go to [AHCCCS Opioid Use Disorder Services](http://ahcccs.org).

Please help spread the word by sharing these resources and information. Together we can make a difference and save lives!

Opioid Monitoring Initiative Partners



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