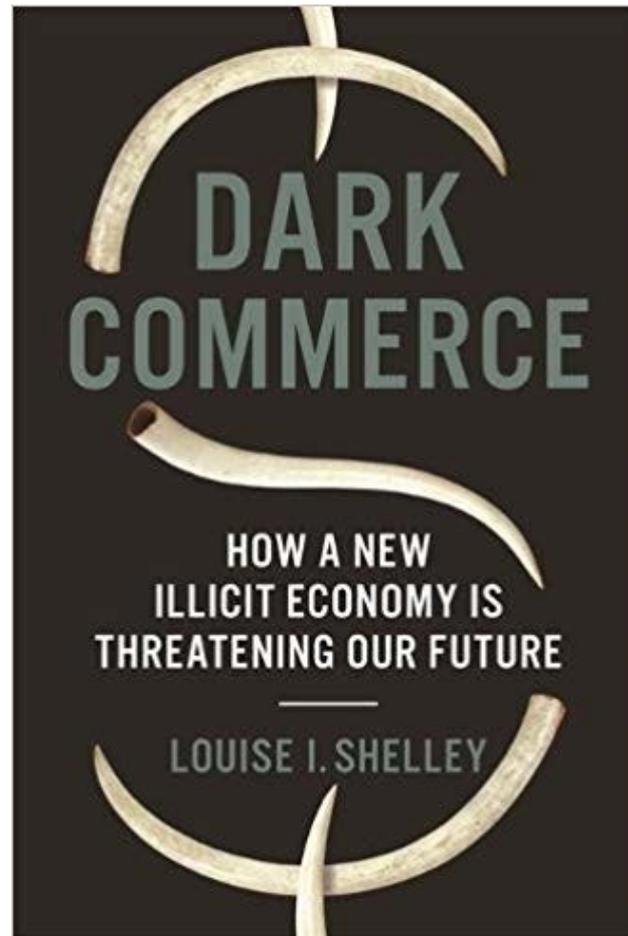


Illicit Trade and Online Pharmaceuticals

Louise Shelley

Online Pharmaceutical Sales can Threaten Human Life



Illicit Trade has Moved to Online Marketplaces

The screenshot displays the homepage of bestfentanyl.com. At the top, the browser address bar shows "Not secure | bestfentanyl.com". The navigation bar includes "Worldwide Shipping" and "Free Delivery Over \$800.00", along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The main header features the "BEST FENTANYL.COM" logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with "HOME", "SHOP", "BLOG", and "CONTACT US". The central banner image shows several boxes of fentanyl patches, including "Fentanyl Winthrop 50 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster", "Fentanyl Winthrop 25 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster", "Fentanyl-ratiopharm 12 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster", and "Fentanyl - 1 A Pharma 25 µg/h Matrixpflaster". A text overlay on the banner reads "BEFORE USING FENTANYL". The bottom of the page features a red promotional bar with four sections: "FREE DELIVERY Orders over \$800.00", "MONEY BACK GUARANTEE 15 Days Money Back", "SATISFACTION GUARANTEE 5 Stars reviews", and "LOYALTY POINTS With each order". A "Chat now" button is located in the bottom right corner.

← → ↻ ⓘ Not secure | bestfentanyl.com

Worldwide Shipping Free Delivery Over \$800.00

BEST FENTANYL.COM

Search...

HOME SHOP BLOG CONTACT US

BEFORE USING FENTANYL

Matrixpflaster Wirkstoff: Fentanyl

Fentanyl Winthrop 50 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster

Fentanyl Winthrop 25 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster Wirkstoff: Fentanyl

Fentanyl-ratiopharm 12 Mikrogramm/h Matrixpflaster Wirkstoff: Fentanyl Opioidanalgetikum

Fentanyl - 1 A Pharma 25 µg/h Matrixpflaster

zur transdermalen Anwendung (zum Aufkleben auf die Haut)

FREE DELIVERY Orders over \$800.00

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE 15 Days Money Back

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE 5 Stars reviews

LOYALTY POINTS With each order

Chat now

bestfentanyl.com/before-using-fentanyl/

Illicit Trade has Moved to Online Marketplaces

- Illicit trade has transformed profoundly in the last 30 years and represents a sharp rupture with what we have known since ancient Mesopotamia 1750 BC (almost 4000 years ago)
- From the first legal codes—illicit trade has involved personal relationships, tangible goods and state-backed currency or gold and silver
- The illicit world today is anonymous, does not rely on personal relationships and also may not involve currency

Prototype of this is Pharmaleaks Case

- Russian online pharmacy that sold primarily viagra
- Site came to the attention of computer scientists because the sponsors of this online pharmacies were the largest source of spam on the internet
- Hence a book on this case, called Spam Nation by Brian Krebs
- See a video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sq8E8boHXk>

Notable elements of the Pharmaleaks case

- Linked to western financial system through the ability to charge purchases through credit cards
- Profit margin was 16% as result of two key costs: advertisers driving purchasers to the site and corruption
- To drive the purchasers—required use of many botnets to produce spam

What happened to this site?

- Not shut down by Russian regulators
- Researchers drove the pharmacy out of business by informing banks that were involved in processing the purchases
- Criminals involved in this crime complained they were cut-off from the financial system and went off to other areas of online criminal activity
- One chief perpetrator was arrested for causing financial problems to a well connected professional, went to jail and came out early to run the Russian national payment system

Access to Medicines fuels this Trade

High cost of medicines and the absence of access to insurance for many customers drives them to online marketplaces where pharmaceuticals are sold for lesser prices

The screenshot shows the TotalCareMart website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search for medication" and a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar, there is a phone number "1-800-267-2688" and links for "Sign Up", "Log In", and "My Cart". Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu with links for "Prescription Drugs", "Non-prescription Drugs", "Pet Medications", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Security & Privacy", "About Totalcaremart", "Contact Us", and "How to Order".

The main content area is titled "Buy Prescription Drugs Online" and includes a "Browse by letter:" section with a grid of letters from A to Z. Below this, there is a section for "Most Popular Prescription Drugs" with a search bar that says "Your search for "" returned 93 results." A table of results is displayed below:

Brand Name	Alias(es)
Abilify (Aripiprazole)	
Aciphex (Rabeprazole Sodium)	Pariet
Actonel (Risedronate Sodium)	
Actos (Pioglitazone Hydrochloride)	
Advair Diskus (Fluticasone Propionate / Salmeterol Xinafoate)	Seretide Accuhaler, Seretide Diskus
Advair Diskus (Fluticasone Propionate / Salmeterol Xinafoate)	Seretide Evohaler, Seretide Inhaler

On the right side of the page, there is a "Reviews" section with a star rating and several customer testimonials. The testimonials are as follows:

- ★★★★★ - Delivered on time and as advertised. *Lewis J Bolman, Oct 3rd, 2016*
- ★★★★★ - The last time I ordered my medication from Total Care Mart, the per dose price had been reduced and is now something like \$2.65 per pill. Here in the States, the per pill price is on the order \$45.00 per pill. We have a system here, as you folks ... *Brian Denev, Faribault, Minnesota, Oct 3rd, 2018*
- ★★★★★ - Everyone is always friendly when calling in an order and everything is explained so I am able to understand. The shipping is always timely No complaints! *Deb, Oct 3rd, 2018*
- ★★★★★ - Everything is efficient and quick, I am very pleased. *Taeoko Leach, Oct 3rd, 2018*

At the bottom right, there is a logo for "Canada Pharmacy".

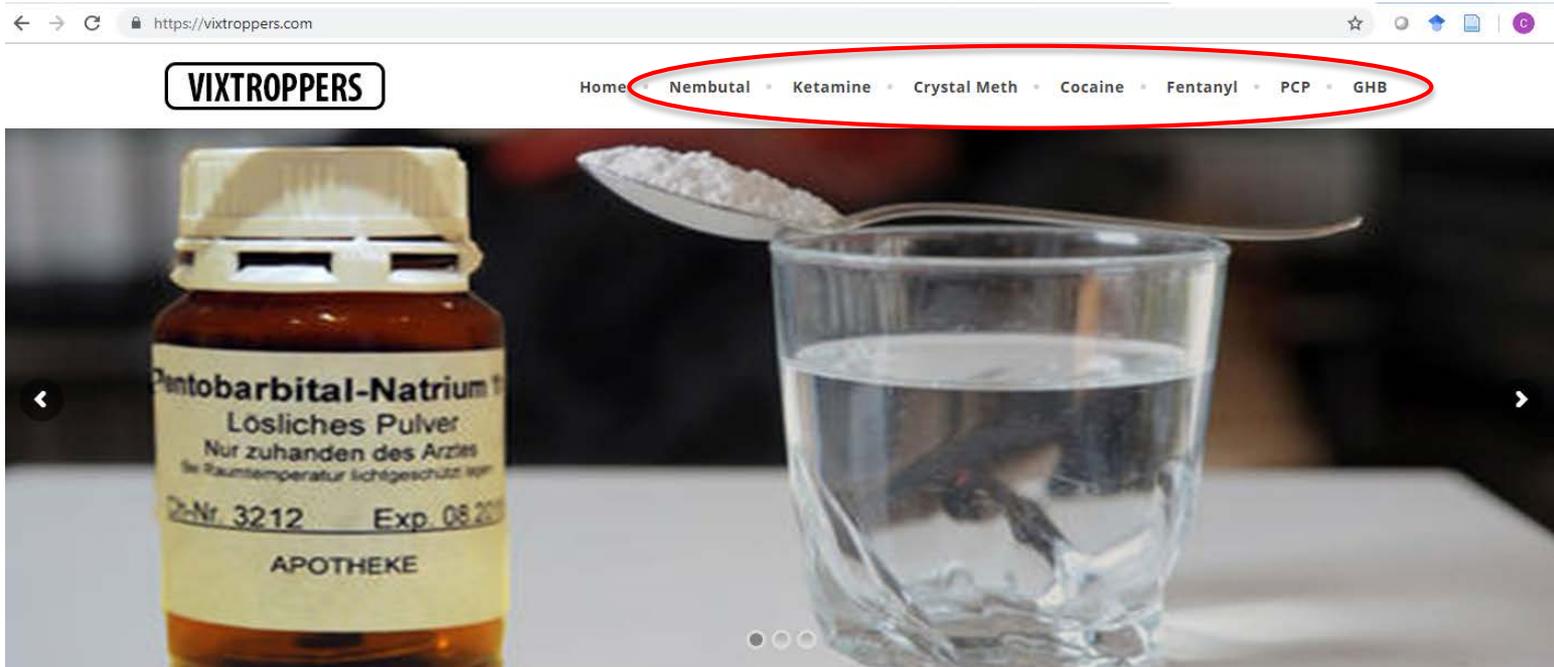
Access to Medicines fuels this Trade

Estimated 40, 000 illicit online pharmaceutical markets, may not be all as illegal as the Pharmaleaks case but the quality of medicine may be poorer than in that case.

The screenshot shows the website pharm-24h.com with a catalog of antibiotics. The page features a navigation menu with links for About us, Bestsellers, FAQ, Testimonials, Policy, and Contact us. A shopping cart icon indicates 50 items. The main banner area includes a "SPECIAL OFFER" for "TRIAL ERECTION PACKS" featuring Viagra 10 pills x 100mg and Cialis 10 pills x 20mg for \$69.96. Below the banner, there are sections for "BESTSELLERS" (with a search bar for "Viagra"), "POPULAR PRODUCTS" (listing Special Offer, Bestsellers, Allergies, Anti Fungal, Anti Viral, and Antibiotics), and "SEARCH DRUGS BY FIRST LETTER" (A-Z). The "PRODUCT LIST" section displays two items: Doxycycline (Only \$0.35 for pill) and Zithromax (Only \$0.46 for pill), each with a "BUY NOW" button.

Access to Medicines fuels this Trade

- Most of the online pharmacies do not conform to existing regulations



Contact Us and specify the product you want to order through;
vixtrollers@outlook.com

What drives the consumers?

- Price
- Ease of Purchase
- Absence of Medical Prescriptions needed to buy medicines legally
- Increasing reliance on cyberspace for product acquisition
- Citizens are not aware that the pharmaceutical sites are not legitimate and may even be selling products that are harmful to them

Illegal online pharmaceuticals

- Selling medicines more serious than those of the viagra-dominated Pharmaleaks
- Many online pharmacies carry drugs for heart, diabetes, cancer and other serious medical conditions
- Annual increase in the number of sites offering these medicines
- High profit margins for participants

YOUR HEALTH IN YOUR HANDS

This content requires the Flash Player. [Click here to download the latest version of the Flash Player.](#)

10% DISCOUNT FOR ALL NEXT ORDERS!

US: +1-760-284-3222 CHANGELANGUAGE: English
EU: +44 20-3 286-3820

SPECIAL OFFER

TRIAL ERECTION PACKS

VIAGRA 10 pills x 100mg
CIALIS 10 pills x 20mg

*\$59.95

BUY NOW

ESTSELLERS

For example: Viagra or example: Viagra

POPULAR PRODUCTS

SPECIAL OFFER

BESTSELLERS

ALLERGIES

ANTI FUNGAL

ANTI VIRAL

ANTIBIOTICS

ANXIETY

ARTHRITIS

ASTHMA

BIRTH CONTROL

BLOOD PRESSURE

CHOLESTEROL LOWERING

DEPRESSION

DIABETES

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

GASTROINTESTINAL

HAIR LOSS

HEART DISEASE

HERBALS

MAN'S HEALTH

SEARCH DRUGS BY FIRST LETTER

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

PRODUCT LIST

Clomid Only \$0.49 for pill
Clomid is used for treating female infertility.
[More info](#) BUY NOW

Female Viagra Only \$0.79 for pill
Female Viagra represents a serious approach to the problem of female sexual arousal disorder (FSAD) and female sexual dysfunction (FSD), formulated scientifically to provide satisfaction in terms of sexual needs and lasting pleasure.
[More info](#) BUY NOW

Nolvadex Only \$0.57 for pill
Nolvadex is used for treating breast cancer that has spread to other sites in the body.
[More info](#) BUY NOW

Female Cialis Only \$1.04 for pill
Female Cialis is a drug which has its orientation towards countering sexual arousal disorders in females. It provides a solution to female sexual dysfunction (FSD). The drug has been scientifically created to arouse and offer satisfaction for the sexual needs.
[More info](#) BUY NOW

Fluoxetine Only \$0.35 for pill
Fluoxetine is used for treating premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), a severe form of premenstrual syndrome.
[More info](#) BUY NOW

Addressing Online Pharmacies

- Declining effort to regulate in so many aspects of life, recent trends at deregulation also enhance this problem
- Absence of human resources in government and the cyberworld to address this problem
- Online platforms have been exempted from responsibility for what is sold on their sites
- Private companies have been unwilling to invest in the resources needed to ensure that their platforms are not abused by different types of online sellers

What needs to be done going forward?

- Need to explain why regulation is needed and necessary for public health in the online marketplace
- Online providers of platforms need to be made responsible—this has been done recently in relation to sex trafficking and the concepts of protecting public welfare need to be expanded in the cyber arena
- Pressure must be placed on corporations operating in cyberspace to invest in the algorithms to detect illicit platforms, enhance and expand initiative of twitter and snapchat of NABP certified websites
- Public-private partnerships must be enhanced to protect consumers
- Citizens need access to medicines to maintain their lives

References

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- <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/comment/illegal-online-pharmacies-endemic/>