ABOUT ONLINE DRUG SELLERS AND COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

Facts About Online Drug Sellers

- A recent review of more than 11,000 websites selling prescription medications to U.S. consumers found approximately 96% appear to be in conflict with U.S. laws; 89% of illegal online pharmacies don’t require a prescription; and 20 new websites selling prescription medicines are launched every day.

- 65% of online search results for prescription drugs lead U.S. consumers to illegal and unsafe websites.

- Buying prescription medicines from illegal online pharmacies increases the risk of credit card and identity theft.

- Nearly one in four adult consumers has purchased prescription medicines online and almost one in five of those indicated that they bought from a website that was not associated with a local pharmacy or health insurance plan.

- 50% of medicines sold online by pharmacy websites that hide their physical street address are fake.

- Products sold by illegal online drugs sellers often contain little or no active ingredients, are manufactured in unsafe conditions, and/or contain floor wax, mercury, concrete, chalk, boric acid, road tar, paint, anti-freeze and other deadly poisons.

Facts About Counterfeit Medicines

- Worth $200 billion a year, the market for counterfeit pharmaceuticals now eclipses almost everything else in the underground economy, including prostitution, human trafficking and illegal arms sales.

- It is estimated that up to a third of the world’s prescription drugs are counterfeit, although this figure is closer to two-thirds in some developing countries. Of these, more than half are classified as “lifesaving”, such as treatments for cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disorders and anti-infectives.