

Source of Fentanyl, Including Lethal Doses

Union of Saints

1. Primary Source Countries

- **Mexico** is currently the **main source of illicit fentanyl seized entering the U.S.** Most of the drug itself is produced there by criminal organizations and transported across the southern land border. [Congress.gov+1](#)
- **China** remains a **major source of precursor chemicals** and equipment used to manufacture fentanyl. These chemicals are shipped to Mexico for processing into fentanyl that is then smuggled into the U.S. [Congress.gov+1](#)

2. How the Supply Chain Works

- **Cartels in Mexico** (notably groups like the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel) control most of the fentanyl production and trafficking into the United States. [Congress.gov+1](#)
- **Chinese chemical manufacturers** have historically supplied the precursor chemicals used to make fentanyl. Even after regulations in China restricted some production, traffickers continued to source precursors there. [DEA+1](#)

3. Routes Into the United States

- The drug is most often smuggled **across the U.S.–Mexico border** in vehicles or carried by individuals crossing at ports of entry. [Council on Foreign Relations](#)
- Smaller quantities of fentanyl or its components can also be shipped through international mail or cargo. [Government Accountability Office](#)

4. Other Countries

- **Other countries** (e.g., India) have occasionally appeared in reports as sources of precursors, but they are not the primary origin points for fentanyl entering the U.S. in significant quantities. [comptroller.texas.gov](#)
- **Canada** contributes a very small fraction of fentanyl seizures. Most fentanyl entering the U.S. does **not** come from the northern border. [globalinitiative.net](#)

Summary

- **Most illicit fentanyl in the U.S. originates in Mexico.**
- **China supplies key precursor chemicals** used in its manufacture.

- The drug is transported across the southern border and sometimes mailed in smaller batches.

This overview reflects current law enforcement reporting and international drug trafficking assessments.