

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The Global Network Behind The Fentanyl Crisis](#)

Article Link: <https://ig.ft.com/fentanyl-crisis/>

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Tweet: Fentanyl margins remain very attractive; \$800 in raw materials can manufacture over \$200,000 worth of fentanyl, or up to \$1.2mm in NYC. 2/3 of 110,000 overdoses in the US last year were caused by fentanyl.

Summary: The American overdose crisis has claimed nearly 110,000 lives last year. More than two-thirds of those deaths were caused by fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 times as potent as heroin. A kilogram of precursor can be purchased from Chinese manufacturers for about \$800, which is enough to manufacture 415,000 fentanyl pills. Each pill can be sold wholesale for as low as 50 cents in the US. Street dealers can make as much as \$3 per pill in New York City, say US prosecutors. US efforts to disrupt the fentanyl supply chain are resulting in increased seizures. Analysis by the Wilson Center in August showed that fentanyl seizures at the US-Mexico border increased 164% from 2020 to 2022. By the end of August, there had already been seizures of nearly 10,000kg in 2023 — far surpassing last year's total of 6,400kg. Most experts believe fentanyl seizures are up because the overall volume of smuggling is increasing rather than any sustained success in the battle against the cartels. Related: Why Are Americans Dying So Young? and Drug Overdose Deaths Topped 100,000 Again in 2022 and Comments On: "Accounting For the Widening Mortality Gap Between American Adults With and Without a BA" By Anne Case and Angus Deaton

Primary Topic: Politics

Topics: News article, Politics, Poverty/Crime, Workforce

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