

Did You Know?

Harms	False Assumptions	Comfort	Factors
<p>24% of Americans with prior experience using online pharmacies report having previously been exposed to harmful, counterfeit, or substandard medication received from an online pharmacy. Yet, even as more consumers are buying prescriptions online, fewer (44%) think it is risky.</p>	<p>44% of Americans falsely believe that online pharmacies do not need a prescription from a healthcare provider to dispense the medication for certain prescription medicines. This number jumps to (53%) among those who have previously purchased prescription medicines online. Meanwhile, 54% of Americans - up from 45% in 2021 - falsely believe all websites offering healthcare services/prescription medications to Americans via the Internet have been approved by the FDA or state regulators. This misperception is even higher (68%) among those who have previously purchased prescription medicines online, up from 59% in 2021.</p>	<p>59% of Americans say they would be comfortable ordering controlled substances from an online pharmacy if unavailable at their local pharmacy.</p>	<p>Convenience (59%) and cost-savings (55%) remain the most frequently cited reasons Americans have or would use online pharmacies – and both outweigh safety concerns.</p>

[Read ASOP Global Foundation's full survey results here.](#)

About Illegal Online Drug Sellers

When you are searching for medication online, it can be difficult to tell what is an illegal online “pharmacy” or a scam. With over **95% of the 35,000 online** “pharmacies” worldwide operating illegally, it’s possible that you’ve come across one before but how can you tell?

Illegal online drug sellers may offer significant cost savings and seem to cut through the red tape. Many claim they are able to offer deep discounts because they sell medications approved by other countries, like Canada, but these medications may not be the same medications that you would get from a licensed pharmacy. Instead, these medications are sourced from unregulated suppliers and manufacturers.

These sites threaten patient lives by louting the most fundamental pharmacy standards – requiring a prescription, operating with a license, and ensuring they source their medications from safe and trusted suppliers. That means you never know what you might get when you buy from illegal online drug sellers.

How to tell the difference?

Safe Pharmacy

Always requires a valid prescription

Asks for a prescription and confirms that it has been issued by a licensed healthcare professional.

Follows the orders provided the prescription and dispenses what your healthcare provider ordered.

Licensed where they operate and sell

Licensed where their facilities are located so regulators can make sure they are storing and preparing medication safely. Licensed in the states where their patients are located so regulators can ensure they are adhering to state laws and investigate patient complaints.

Protect your health and privacy

Doesn't offer to sell you medications that you weren't prescribed. Doesn't sell your personal information, but rather safeguards your personal information.

Trustworthy suppliers and safe medications

Buy their medicines from FDA-approved wholesalers and manufacturers. You can trust the medicines they provide are safe.

Illegal Online Drug Seller

No prescription required, no questions asked

Doesn't ask for a prescription or doesn't require one to purchase. Patients allowed to select medicine, dosage, and quantity on their own.

What license?

Aren't licensed in the jurisdiction where their patients are located and may not be licensed where they operate, meaning they operate with zero regulatory oversight. Often located abroad, making it difficult for authorities to investigate patient complaints. Seldom have a licensed pharmacist on staff.

Shady deals and spam emails

Offers deep discounts on medications, often too good to be true. Offers free samples of medications or "bonus pills." May market other drugs to you via email. These websites may also steal your data.

You never know what you'll get

The drugs you receive may look like the real deal but in reality, there is no telling where these medications come from or how they were produced and there are no guarantees they are safe.

File a report If you suspect a website or social media account may be selling medication illegally report it to National Association Board of Pharmacy Not Recommended List.