



**University of South Florida St. Petersburg
POLICE CRIME ALERT BULLETIN
March 22nd, 2016**



PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

The University Police is sharing this information in the interest of community public health awareness, there have been no incidents related to USFSP.

On March 21st, 2016 Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri hosted a press conference with representatives from the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Clearwater Police Department to bring awareness to an increasing number of deaths from overdoses attributed to counterfeit pills in Pinellas County.

Between January 2016 and March 2016, there have been 9 overdose deaths in Pinellas County.

Three of those cases were a result of victims overdosing on “street purchased” counterfeit Xanax pills. It was confirmed that these victims actually died from a lethal mixture of the drug Fentanyl and Xanax.

Six overdose deaths are strongly suspected of being related to the same type of counterfeit Xanax/ Fentanyl pills. These counterfeit pills were produced to imitate the same size, shape, and same markings as Xanax pills.

These overdose related death cases have all taken place from Largo south to St. Petersburg within the last two months.

Fentanyl is an extremely potent drug. Fentanyl is about “80 times more potent than Morphine and about 50 times more potent than pure heroin” Sheriff Gualtieri said. The drug is commonly used for pain and is often used with cancer patients.

The source of this substance is unknown at this time; however, it does appear to be limited to Pinellas County. Sheriff Gualtieri warned citizens “to stop buying Xanax on the street” and to only use drugs prescribed by your doctor and purchased from a pharmacy.

In compliance with the Clery Act, all Crime Alert Bulletins are posted on the UPD website, at the following link:

<http://www.usfsp.edu/university-police-department/crime-information/crime-updates/>

