

 *The Partnership for*  
**SAFEMEDICINES<sup>®</sup>**  
**COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT**

## Alabama, July – December 2022

Fake pills have dominated news in Alabama over the last six months. Authorities seized fentanyl pills disguised as Xanax, Percocet, and Adderall, and illegally manufactured alprazolam pills. Two confirmed fentanyl pill deaths were reported. A [mass poisoning](#) event [with one fatality](#) at a high school which may have involved counterfeit pills is still under investigation.

Jefferson County reported an uptick of drug deaths involving xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer also known as “tranq” that does not respond to naloxone. News sources have not reported pills made with xylazine in Alabama, but pills that contain the drug have emerged in other U.S. states.

In the past, 43 medical practices in Alabama were warned for buying black market cancer treatments or fake Botox. In 2017, three people pleaded guilty to making pharmaceuticals at locations in Alabama and Florida and selling them via an online pharmacy. In addition, an Alabama drug distributor was named in Gilead Sciences’ lawsuit over the trafficking of [counterfeit HIV medicines](#) in 2021.

### Recent Incidents

December 2022:

**Pill seizure in Auburn:** Elizabeth White, “[Auburn Man Arrested in Massive Fentanyl Bust; Woman Saved by First Responders. Narcan](#),” *WRBL News3*, December 29, 2022.

November 2022:

**Fentanyl poisoning incident in Selma:** “[Selma High Student Who Died on Campus Had Fentanyl, Opioids in His System, Officials Say](#),” *Selma Sun*, December 16, 2022, and Will Blakely, “[Teen Dies at Selma High School. Others Sent to ER](#),” *1819 News*, November 9, 2022.

September 2022:

**Death in Semmes:** Ariel Mallory and Emily Van de Riet, “[17-year-old Charged in Fentanyl Overdose Death of 15-Year-Old Girl, Deputies Say](#),” *KKTV 11News*, September 7, 2022

August 2022:

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Scan the QR CODE or go to [safedr ug/Alabama-page](https://safedr ug/Alabama-page) for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Alabama.



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**Fentanyl pills seized in Decatur:** Zach Hester, "[1,200 Fentanyl-laced Pills, Loaded Firearms Recovered in Decatur](#)," *WHNT News 19*, August 26, 2022.

**Xylazine in drug deaths in Jefferson County:** Lauren Jackson, "[Jefferson County Coroner Seeing Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths from Animal Tranquilizer](#)," *WTVY News4*, August 4, 2022.

July 2022:

**Death in Ensley:** Carol Robinson, "['Fentanyl is Evil.' Jefferson County Mom Warns After Daughter's Accidental Overdose Death](#)," *Alabama Live*, September 21, 2022.

**Fentanyl pills seized in Florence:** Kevin Taylor, "[Agents Seize \\$64K Worth of ICE, Fentanyl Pills](#)," *The Times Daily*, July 21, 2022.

**Alprazolam tablets seized in Decatur:** Paul Gattis, "[Counterfeit Drugs Presumed to be Xanax Recovered in North Alabama Probe](#)," *Alabama Live*, July 14, 2022.

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