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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

California, November - December 2022

It is almost impossible to summarize the counterfeit medicine news in California. Fake pills made to look like legitimate prescription pills are being seized on a nearly daily basis around the state. Incidents of students being poisoned by fentanyl have left [schools stocking up on naloxone](#). In addition to fentanyl pills, recent cases also involved fake Adderall pills that were made of methamphetamine and fake Xanax made of N-Ethylhexedrone.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into California from places other than street corners or social media apps. Sometimes, members of the medical profession have purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 516 doctors and medical practices across California warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters referenced medicines to treat serious medical conditions such as cancer and osteoporosis. In 2021, ten individuals and companies in California were named in a lawsuit filed by Gilead Sciences alleging their participation in a massive counterfeit HIV medication trafficking ring.

Recent Incidents

December 2022

San Jose man arrested for selling fentanyl pills: "[Los Gatos High School fentanyl overdoses lead to arrest of suspected San Jose drug dealer](#)," *CBS Bay Area*, December 22, 2022.

Fresno man sentenced in fentanyl pill case: Marcela Chavez, "[DOJ: Fresno man sentenced for fentanyl distribution to a minor](#)," *Your Central Valley*, December 19, 2022.

Newport Beach Police seized fentanyl pills: Lilly Nguyen, "[Estimated 50,000 fentanyl pills found in narcotics bust, Newport Beach Police say](#)," *L.A. Times*, December 16, 2022.

Large-scale fentanyl pill traffickers indicted: "[Federal grand jury indicts 2 on charges of selling fentanyl, other narcotics through darknet and encrypted messaging applications](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, December 16, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr ug/CA-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in California.



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Fentanyl pills seized in multiple locations throughout San Bernardino County: "[Meth and fentanyl-laced oxycodone seized during "Operation Consequences" week of December 3rd-9th,](#)" *Victor Valley News Group*, December 12, 2022.

50,000 fentanyl pills seized in Mission Valley: Amber Coakley, "[15 pounds of counterfeit fentanyl seized in Mission Valley,](#)" *Fox5 San Diego*, December 10, 2022.

Counterfeit pill dealer sentenced: "[California man sentenced in anabolic steroids and pill distribution conspiracy,](#)" U.S. Department of Justice, December 9, 2022.

250,000 fentanyl pills seized in Los Angeles County: "[December 1, 2022: Charges filed in connection with massive seizure of fentanyl pills and powder,](#)" District Attorney's Office of Los Angeles County, December 1, 2022.

November 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Placer County: "[Nearly 60,000 fentanyl pills recovered during Placer County traffic stop,](#)" *KCRA*, November 23, 2022.

15-year-old poisoned and killed by fentanyl pill: Michael Chen, "[Fentanyl suspected in death of 15-year-old San Carlos girl,](#)" *ABC10 News*, November 21, 2022.

Man indicted for selling fentanyl pills online: Cindy von Quedhow, "[Cerritos man charged with running organization that sold fentanyl on the darknet,](#)" *KTLA*, November 21, 2022.

Alhambra Police seized fentanyl pills: "[Alhambra PD K-9 finds thousands of fentanyl pills stashed in fire extinguisher during traffic stop,](#)" *ABC7*, November 19, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in San Bernardino: "[104 pounds of fentanyl seized after traffic stop leads to search warrant at San Bernardino home,](#)" *ABC7*, November 14, 2022.

80,000 fentanyl pills seized in Bakersfield: Mason Rockfellow, "[80k fentanyl pills seized, 6 arrested: BPD,](#)" *KGET*, November 9, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer sentenced: "[Fentanyl dealer sentenced to six years for selling 'M30' pills that killed Monterey victim,](#)" U.S. Department of Justice, November 7, 2022.

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