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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Washington, D.C. July 2022 – February 2023

The DEA's Washington Division seized [160,000 fake pills containing fentanyl](#) in 2022, and those pills killed at least four teens in the D.C. suburbs in the latter half of the year. Prosecutions involving earlier deaths in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland, as well as D.C.-based pill manufacturing and distribution rings are working their way through the courts.

It's not just fentanyl pills. In July, federal courts sentenced the last defendant in a northern Virginia ring that sold kilogram quantities of fake Adderall pills made of meth on the dark web. The National Capital Region has also seen cases involving counterfeit birth control pills, antibiotics, and other prescription medicines. Between 2009 and 2013, Arlington-based Gallant Pharmaceuticals sold U.S. medical practices over \$12.4 million in black market medications they falsely claimed were Canadian. The FDA warned three Washington, D.C. doctors not to buy from Gallant; a fourth was warned to stop purchasing fake Botox from other sources.

Recent Incidents

February 2023

Guilty plea for the sale of fentanyl pills that killed a D.C. woman: "[Brother and sister plead guilty to drug conspiracy involving fentanyl sales](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, February 8, 2023.

January 2023

Pill dealer sentenced, Culpeper: Zak Failla, "[Drug dealer who conspired with wife to sell deadly drugs in VA gets nine years in prison](#)," *Fairfax Daily Voice*, January 26, 2023.

Eight D.C. and Maryland residents indicted for alleged drug sales: "[Indictment charges eight members of alleged D.C. drug gang with conspiracy](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, January 12, 2023.

Guilty plea for the sale of fake Percocet that killed a Woodbridge teen: "[Woodbridge man pleads guilty to distributing narcotics to 14-year-old](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, January 6, 2023.

Scan the QR code or go to [safedr.ug/DC-page](https://safedr ug/DC-page) for more information on counterfeit incidents in Washington, DC.



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December 2022

Fentanyl pills seized, Culpeper: “[Two arrested in Culpeper with 5,000 pressed fentanyl pills](#),” *Culpeper Times*, December 18, 2022.

Poisoning and death of teens, Prince George’s and Prince William Counties: Nick Iannelli, “[Teen overdoses in VA MD tied to counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl](#),” *WTOP*, December 9, 2023 and Omari Daniels, “[Prince George’s police warn of fentanyl-laced pills stamped with ‘M’](#),” *Washington Post*, December 3, 2022.

November 2022

Upper Marlboro woman sentenced in pill press operation: “[Fifth defendant in multi-kilogram fentanyl trafficking conspiracy sentenced](#),” U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Virginia, November 3, 2022.

October 2022

Six accused of running a pill press operation in D.C.: “[Six people indicted on federal charges following investigation of fentanyl distribution operation](#),” U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Columbia, October 5, 2022.

September 2022

Death of Manassas teen: Tisha Lewis, “[Father speaks out after 17-year-old son dies from suspected fentanyl overdose](#),” *Fox 5*, October 12, 2022.

Man charged for providing the pill that killed a Bethesda teen: “[Silver Spring, Maryland man faces federal charges for distribution of fentanyl resulting in the death of a minor victim](#),” U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Maryland, September 21, 2022.

July 2022

Sentencing in fake Adderall ring: “[Man sentenced for conspiracy to distribute meth on the darknet](#),” U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Virginia, July 12, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized, Prince William County, Virginia: “[Prince William County Police discover over 20k pills in fire extinguisher](#),” *NBC 12*, July 10, 2022.

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