

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES[®]
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Delaware, February – December 2022

Delaware has seen a steady uptick in counterfeit pill activity since 2020, when fentanyl pill operations and a death as a result of them surfaced in public reports. In 2022, federal courts continued to crack down on this activity, sentencing three fentanyl pill dealers to between 10 and 15 years in prison. In October, the Delaware State Police forensic chemistry unit warned that a veterinary tranquilizer, xylazine, was appearing in pills and powders. Xylazine is a particular problem because it is a dangerously strong sedative that does not respond to naloxone.

Between 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned 11 Delaware physicians to stop doing business with black market drug distributors that had sold fake Botox and counterfeit cancer drugs. In 2019, Delaware's Attorney General dissolved four Delaware companies that allegedly laundered money for prescription drug smugglers.

Recent Incidents

November 2022:

Wilmington man sentenced for selling pills: [“Fake Oxycodone Pill Seller Sentenced to 10 Years in Federal Prison,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, November 8, 2022.

September 2022:

Wilmington man sentenced for pill possession: [“Wilmington Man Who Possessed Fake Oxycodone Pills For Resale Sentenced to 10 Years in Federal Prison,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, September 1, 2022.

Warning about xylazine in fake pills: [Paul Kiefer, “As Xylazine Arrives in Delaware's Drug Supply, Users and Harm Reduction Experts Search for Responses,”](#) *Delaware Public Radio* September 21, 2022.

February 2022

Wilmington fentanyl pill dealer sentenced: [“Wilmington Man Who Sold Fake Oxycodone Pills Containing Fentanyl Sentenced To Over 15 Years In Federal Prison,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, February 23, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr ug/DE-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Delaware.

