## The Partnership for SAFEMEDICINES® COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

## Louisiana, July 2022 - January 2023

Since July 2022, the counterfeit medicine news coming out of Louisiana paints a grim picture of the toll that fentanyl pills are taking on individuals and communities across the state. In August, police filed charges in separate cases against individuals for their roles in the fentanyl pill poisoning and deaths of a 2-year-old in Baton Rouge and a 15-year-old in Bush. Seizures of fentanyl pills and arrests happened in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Holden, West Monroe, and East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parishes.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Louisiana from places other than street corners, shady websites, 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 53 doctors and medical practices across Louisiana warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox.

## **Recent Incidents**

January 2023

**Fentanyl pills seized in Livingston Parish:** Rian Chatman, "<u>2 men arrested for</u> <u>distribution of fentanyl laced pills, officials say</u>," *WAFB*, January 11, 2023.

December 2022

Police broke up a multi-parish drug ring making fentanyl pills: Emily Davison, "<u>Five</u> arrested, including minors, in multiple-parish drug bust Thursday; deputies seized more than 6,000 lethal doses of fentanyl," *WBRZ*, December 15, 2022.

Monroe man sentenced in drug case involving fake Viagra made with fentanyl: "Drug trafficker from Monroe sentenced to lengthy prison term," U.S. Department of Justice, December 13, 2022.

November 2022

Three in Lafourche Parish charged: "<u>3 arrested in Lafourche teens' overdoses, including</u> <u>1 death, from suspected fentanyl pills</u>," *Daily Comet*, November 1, 2022.



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September 2022

**Man sentenced in fentanyl pill death of Plaquemines Parish teen:** FOX 8 Staff and Emily Van de Riet, "<u>Man sentenced to 20 years for overdose death of teen who died days before graduation</u>," September 13, 2020.

August 2022

Police seized 28,000 fentanyl pills in Alexandria: "RADE Agents recover 10 pounds of Fentanyl; 3 Alexandria suspects arrested," KALB, October 11, 2022.

West Monroe pair arrested for allegedly selling fentanyl pills: Madison Remrey, "West Monroe pair accused of selling pills laced with fentanyl," *KNOE*, August 24, 2022.

**Four arrested in fentanyl pill investigation in Lafourche Parish:** "<u>Agents arrest four</u> <u>men as part of ongoing investigation into 'fentanyl pills'</u>," Lafourche Sheriff's Office, August 24, 2022.

**Baton Rouge man accused of selling fentanyl pills:** Logan Cullop, "<u>Alleged drug dealer</u> <u>arrested in grocery store after leaving baby in car near fentanyl pills</u>," *WBRZ*, August 22, 2022.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff charged two in teen's fentanyl pill death:** Michaela Romero and Kylee Bond, "<u>Toxicology report shows Slidell teen died of fentanyl overdose,</u> <u>2 charged with murder</u>," *WGNO*, August 11, 2022.

**Two-year-old poisoned and killed by fentanyl pill:** James Finn, "<u>Mother arrested in</u> <u>death of 2-year-old son after he overdoses on fentanyl, sheriff says</u>," *The Advocate*, August 2, 2022.

July 2022

**Thousands of fentanyl pills seized in Holden:** Emily Davison, "More than 2,000 fentanyl pills seized in massive Livingston Parish drug bust," *WBRZ*, July 15, 2022.

