

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

Maryland, January – December 2022

Incidents involving counterfeit pills made with fentanyl continue to affect Maryland. Authorities reported fake-pill-related teen deaths in Prince Georges and Montgomery counties, fentanyl pill seizures in Frederick and Owings, and the bust of a pill-making lab in Elkton. Federal courts are prosecuting members of two Washington D.C.-area fentanyl rings that included Maryland residents. In September, a Silver Spring man was indicted for selling the fake pills that killed a minor.

In 2022, Gilead Sciences named two Maryland pharmaceutical distributors and a pharmacy for their involvement in a ring of more than 140 companies and individuals alleged to have sold over 85,000 counterfeit bottles of HIV medicine across the country.

Maryland has also seen counterfeit Xanax trafficking operations (2018), fake surgical hardware (2015), and illegal importation of prescription drugs (2015). Finally, between 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned 40 Maryland medical practices to stop doing business with black market drug distributors that had sold fake Botox and counterfeit cancer drugs.

Recent Incidents

December 2022:

Police warn of counterfeit pill deaths: Omari Daniels, "[Prince George's police warn of fentanyl-laced pills stamped with 'M'](#)," *Washington Post*, December 3, 2022.

Death of a teen, Prince George's County: Brad Bell, "[Police: Maryland high school student dies after ingesting suspected fentanyl-laced pill](#)," *WJLA*, December 2, 2022.

November 2022:

Fifth member of a DC-area fentanyl ring sentenced: "[Fifth defendant in multi-kilogram fentanyl trafficking conspiracy sentenced](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, November 3, 2022.

October 2022:

Three Maryland residents indicted in DC-area pill-making operation: "[Six people indicted on federal charges following investigation of fentanyl distribution operation](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, October 5, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedrug.org/MD-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Maryland.



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September 2022:

Silver Spring man charged with selling pills that killed a minor: [“Silver Spring, Maryland man faces federal charges for distribution of fentanyl resulting in the death of a minor victim,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, September 21, 2022.

July 2022

Fake oxycodone made of fentanyl seized, Owings: [“Calvert man sentenced to 5 years for counterfeit pills filled with fentanyl,”](#) *The Baynet*, November 16, 2022.

April 2022:

Drug seizure, including fentanyl pills, Frederick: [“Frederick man considered repeat offender pleads guilty to gun & drug charges,”](#) *WFMD*, August 10, 2022.

March 2022

Pill lab busted, Elkton: Carl Hamilton, [“Police: Man manufactured fentanyl pills inside home near Elkton,”](#) *Cecil Daily*, March 1, 2022.

January 2022:

Drug distributors and a pharmacy sued for selling fake HIV medicine: Joseph Walker and Corinne Ramy, [“Drugmaker Gilead alleges counterfeiting ring sold its HIV drugs,”](#) *Wall Street Journal*, January 18, 2022 and [Corrected fourth amended complaint](#), Gilead Sciences et al v. Safe Chain Solutions, LLC, September 28, 2022.

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