

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

Mississippi, January 2022 - January 2023

Counterfeit medicine news coming out of Mississippi has been sporadic since January 2022, but the issue of counterfeit pills made with fentanyl remained a constant throughout. In March, a Jackson man received a lengthy prison sentence for selling the counterfeit pill that killed 24-year-old Austin Elliot in February 2021. Law enforcement seized pills in Rankin County, Jackson, Tupelo, Batesville, and Tillabota.

Street corners and shady websites are not the only way that fake medicine has found its way to Mississippians. 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 17 doctors and medical practices across Mississippi 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 Tupelo: William Moore, "[Raid at Tupelo barber shop nets 10,000 fentanyl pills, other drugs](#)," *Daily Journal*, January 10, 2023.

October 2022

Hundreds of fentanyl pills seized from Tupelo man's home: William Moore, "[Tupelo man charged with trafficking fentanyl](#)," *Daily Journal*, October 27, 2022.

Biloxi man pleaded guilty in case involving fentanyl pills: "[Final defendant in eight-person indictment pleads guilty to gun conspiracy](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, October 25, 2022.

Tillabota man found with fentanyl pills: Eric Lampkin, "[Yalobusha County deputies arrest fentanyl drug dealer](#)," *WCBI*, October 13, 2022.

Police seized fentanyl pills from Marks resident: Autumn Scott, "[100 fentanyl pills, other drugs found after MS police chase](#)," *WREG*, October 5, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr.org/MS-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in Mississippi.



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August 2022

Tupelo Police seized fentanyl pills: [“California man arrested by Mississippi officers after traffic stop leads to discovery more than 800 fentanyl pills,”](#) *Magnolia State Live*, August 20, 2022.

May 2022

Five pounds of fentanyl pills found in Jackson: Jacob Gallant, [“‘Lethal doses’ of Tylenol, fentanyl discovered in container, disguised as oxycodone,”](#) *WLBT*, May 12, 2022.

April 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Rankin County: Kaitlin Howell, [“Man arrested after fentanyl pills found during Rankin County traffic stop,”](#) *WJTV 12*, April 25, 2022.

March 2022

Jackson man sentenced for selling deadly fake pill: Howard Ballou and Andrew McMunn, [“Mississippi man sentenced to 124 years after selling fentanyl to 24-year-old, resulting in his death,”](#) *Live5 News*, March 29, 2022.

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