

The Partnership for
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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Montana, August 2022 – January 2023

Fentanyl is wreaking havoc in Montana. [The Montana Highway Patrol seized over 12,000 counterfeit pills made with fentanyl in the first quarter of 2022 alone](#), more than three times as many as they had in all of 2021. Since August, people have been caught with fentanyl pills in East Glacier and Kalispell. Defendants pleaded guilty to possession or trafficking of pills in Great Falls, and the Flathead, Fort Peck, and Rocky Boy's Reservations. A Missoula man admitted to dealing fentanyl pills that killed someone. In October, a Stevensville man pleaded guilty to making and distributing Adderall and Percocet counterfeits that contained methamphetamine and fentanyl, respectively. Twenty-two people were convicted for their involvement in a Butte-based fake pill and methamphetamine distribution ring in December.

Counterfeits of other therapeutic treatments also impact Montana residents. In 2013, a Montana resident, Paul Bottomley, pleaded guilty to distributing counterfeit cancer medication to oncologists across the U.S. Additionally, eight medical practices were implicated in black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies between 2012 and 2016.

Recent Incidents

January 2023:

Williston man discovered with hundreds of pills pleads guilty: "[North Dakota man admits fentanyl trafficking in Great Falls](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, January 5, 2022.

December 2022:

Washington-state dealer detained in East Glacier with 1,000 pills: Meridith Depping, "[Law enforcement find fentanyl pills after suspected a drug trafficker was stopped near East Glacier](#)," ABC Fox Montana, December 18, 2022.

Members of Butte-based drug ring that sold over 700,000 fentanyl pills convicted: "[Investigation dismantles Butte drug trafficking organization with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, December 15, 2022.

November 2022:

Ronan man pleaded guilty to possessing fentanyl pills: "[Ronan man admits trafficking fentanyl, illegal possession of firearm](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, November 7, 2022.

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Man admitted to possession of drugs, including fentanyl pills: [“Great Falls man admits trafficking meth. fentanyl and illegal firearm possession,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, November 7, 2022.

October 2022:

Reservation pill distributors sentenced: [“Billings man sentenced to more than seven years in prison for trafficking meth. fentanyl on Fort Peck Indian Reservation,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, October 13, 2022 [“Box Elder man sentenced to prison for fentanyl trafficking on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, October 13, 2022.

Man pleaded guilty to synthesizing fentanyl and making counterfeit pills on property near Stevensville: [“Stevensville man admits drug trafficking, firearm, money laundering crimes after investigators seize thousands of fentanyl pills in traffic stop; find pill-making equipment, materials on property,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, October 13, 2022.

Missoula resident admitted to selling fentanyl pill that killed: [“Missoula man admits trafficking fentanyl in community after overdose death,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, October 12, 2022.

Police seized 12,000 pills in Kalispell: [“Mexico citizen arrested in Kalispell on suspicion of trafficking fentanyl appears in court,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, October 7, 2022.

September 2022:

Reservation pill distributors sentenced: [“Washington man admits trafficking meth. fentanyl to Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, September 13, 2022. [“Wolf Point man admits fentanyl trafficking crime,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, September 1, 2022.

August 2022:

Butte man sentenced for selling fake pills: [“Butte man sentenced to more than six years in prison for distributing meth. fentanyl,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, August 25, 2022.

Reservation pill distributors sentenced: [“Michigan man admits trafficking fentanyl on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, August 23, 2022. [“Billings woman admits trafficking fentanyl on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation,”](#) U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, August 15, 2022.

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