

 *The Partnership for*
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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

North Carolina, July 2022 - February 2023

Counterfeit medicine news out of the Tar Heel State has been mostly dominated by fake fentanyl pills since mid-2022. Law enforcement seized pills in Durham, Davidson, Pamlico, and Rutherford counties. The U.S. Department of Justice arrested members of a multi-state drug ring that allegedly sold over one million counterfeit Roxicodone pills in Charlotte, Rock Hill, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, and Atlanta. A Fountain man was arrested for selling a counterfeit Xanax made with clonazepam that poisoned a woman in April 2021.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into North Carolina from places other than street corners 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 51 doctors and medical practices across North Carolina warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers.

Recent Incidents

February 2023

Members of multi-state drug ring arrested: Rochelle Dean, "[DOJ arrests 19 people in multi-state drug ring](#)," *ABC Columbia*, February 2, 2023.

January 2023

Rutherford County traffic stop led to seizure of 400 fentanyl pills: Bethany Fowler, "[400 fentanyl pills, guns seized from NC home, deputies say](#)," *Queen City News*, January 6, 2023.

December 2022

Fentanyl pills seized from Forest City home: Anisa Snipes, "[4 charged after 800 fentanyl pills found in NC home, deputies say](#)," *Fox Carolina*, December 21, 2022.

Police found thousands of fentanyl pills in Rutherford County: A.J. Davis, "[Thousands of fentanyl pills seized from N.C. home, deputies say](#)," *WYFF4*, December 15, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedrugs.org/NC-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in North Carolina.



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November 2022

Pamlico Sheriff arrested 17, seized drugs including fentanyl pills: Brandon Tester, "[Pamlico Co. narcotics investigation nets 17 arrests](#)," *WNCT*, November 21, 2022.

October 2022

Davidson County man arrested for selling counterfeit pills: Teyah Glenn, "[Multiple bags of fentanyl pills discovered in Davidson Co. home](#)," *WFMY News2*, October 6, 2022.

September 2022

Fountain man arrested for selling fake pills that poisoned one person: "[Man arrested for selling counterfeit pills](#)," *The Daily Reflector*, September 15, 2022.

Fentanyl poisonings at Fort Bragg: Seth Harp, "[These kids are dying' — inside the overdose crisis sweeping Fort Bragg](#)," *Rolling Stone*, September 4, 2022.

Medical examiner issued a report on deaths from counterfeit pills: "[North Carolina counterfeit pill involved deaths, 2020-present](#)," *North Carolina Health News*, September 2022.

August 2022

Poisonings and deaths from counterfeit pills increased: Debbie Page, "[Iredell County EMS reports 'scary' increase in overdoses, overdose deaths in recent weeks](#)," *Iredell Free News*, August 9, 2022.

July 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Durham County: "[Investigators Stop Fentanyl Delivery In Durham](#)," Durham County North Carolina, July 6, 2022.

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