

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

North Dakota, January 2022 – January 2023

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced at the end of December that they had [seized nearly 4.7 million lethal doses of fentanyl](#) in their Omaha Division, which covers South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. The DEA warned that much of the fentanyl is trafficked as fake prescription pills. DEA laboratory testing in 2022 showed that six out of ten fake pills contained a lethal dose.

Drug deaths in the state [almost doubled between 2019 and 2021](#), and recent busts have discovered counterfeit pills in the thousands: 20,000 pills in a Bismarck home, 15,000 in a storage facility, 8,000 in a spare tire. Law enforcement officials blame a [pipeline of counterfeit drugs from Detroit and the surrounding suburbs for targeting Native Americans](#).

In addition to these counterfeits, between 2012 and 2016 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned ten North Dakota doctors to stop purchasing medication from black market sellers of specious medicine for cancer, osteoporosis, migraines and other serious medical conditions.

Recent Incidents

January 2023

More than 100 fentanyl pills seized, Berthold: Jordan Schroeer, "[Two arrested. 100+ fentanyl pills seized](#)," *Valley News Live*, January 12, 2023.

October 2022:

7,000 fentanyl pills seized among other drugs, Fargo: "[3 arrested in Fargo on suspicion of selling fentanyl](#)," *Inforum*, October 27, 2022.

20,000 fentanyl pills, Bismarck: Travis Svihovec, "[Bismarck police seize fentanyl worth \\$900,000](#)," *Bismarck Tribune*, October 5, 2022.

August 2022:

3,000 fentanyl pills in Bismarck hotel room: Erika Craven, "[Drug bust at Bismarck hotel reveals nearly 3,000 fentanyl pills](#)," *KFYR-TV*, August 24, 2022.

July 2022:

8,000 fentanyl pills in spare tire near Bismarck: Stacie Van Dyke, "[Traffic stop near Bismarck uncovers drugs worth \\$840K](#)," *Valley News Live*, July 21, 2022.

June 2022:

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr.ug/ND-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in North Dakota.



 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES®
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

15,000 fentanyl pills and fentanyl powder seized, Ward County: Justine Lofton, "[Michigan man arrested with \\$1M worth of fentanyl in North Dakota](#)," *Michigan Live*, June 22, 2022.

April 2022:

800 fentanyl pills seized, Grand Forks: Meghan Arbegast, "[Arrests made in connection to M30 fentanyl pill distribution in Grand Cities area](#)," *Grand Forks Herald*, April 22, 2022.

February 2022:

5,000 fentanyl pills seized, Bismarck: Erika Craven, "[Law enforcement seize thousands of fentanyl pills, \\$40,000 in cash in Tuesday drug busts](#)," *KFYR-TV*, February 10, 2022.

January 2022:

Pill death, East Grand Forks: Meghan Arbegast, "[Arrests made in connection to M30 fentanyl pill distribution in Grand Cities area](#)," *Grand Forks Herald*, April 22, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr.ug/ND-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in North Dakota.

