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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Nebraska, September 2020 – 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 warns 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 potentially lethal dose. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevent reported that 256 Nebraskans died from poisonings and overdoses on fentanyl and other synthetic opioids between 2018 and 2022](#). All of Nebraska law enforcement seized 46 fentanyl pills in 2019, 4,000 in 2020, but in 2021 83,000 were seized by the DEA alone. By July 2022, the DEA seized more than 151,000 pills in Nebraska.

In addition to these counterfeits, between 2012 and 2016 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned six Nebraska 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:

Lincoln woman charged for receiving counterfeit pills: Andrew Wegley, "[Lincoln woman had 1,000 fentanyl pills shipped to home address. State Patrol alleges](#)," *Lincoln Journal Star*, January 20, 2023.

11 pounds of pills found in traffic stop near Aurora: "[50,000 suspected fentanyl pills recovered after traffic stop in central Nebraska](#)," *KSNB Local4*, January 13, 2023.

4-year-old dies after ingesting half of fake M-30: Molly Ashford, "[Mother of 4-year-old who died after ingesting fentanyl charged with negligent child abuse](#)," *Omaha World-Herald*, January 9, 2023.

December 2022:

Man sentenced for selling fake Adderall and fake Xanax via social media: "[California man sentenced in anabolic steroids and pill distribution conspiracy](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Nebraska, December 9, 2022.

October 2022:

Two women sentenced in drug case involving fentanyl pills: "[Council Bluffs woman sentenced in methamphetamine and fentanyl distribution conspiracy](#)," U.S. Attorney's

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Office, District of Nebraska, October 28, 2022. "[Woman sentenced in methamphetamine and fentanyl drug conspiracy](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Nebraska, September 15, 2022.

13 pounds of counterfeit pills confiscated in Lancaster County: "[Nebraska law enforcement seizes 60,000 fentanyl pills during traffic stop on Interstate 80](#)," *KETV Omaha*, October 20, 2022.

21-year-old killed by fake pill in Papillion: John Chapman, "[Papillion mother talks about her son's fentanyl death, spreads awareness](#)," *WOWT 6 News*, October 10, 2022.

September 2022:

Man sentenced for receiving 2,000 fentanyl pills via FedEx: "[Omaha man sentenced to 68 months for possessing dealer quantities of fentanyl](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Nebraska, September 12, 2022.

March 2022:

North Platte Police seize 25,000 pills: Jacob Comer, "[Two arrested after 25,000 fentanyl pills found during traffic stop](#)," *WOWT 6 News*, March 8, 2022.

February 2021:

Seven indicted for selling misbranded pharmaceutical drugs online without prescriptions: Gina Dvorak, "[One of 7 on federal charges of selling misbranded drugs to stand trial in Nebraska](#)," *WOWT 6 News*, February 25, 2021.

September 2020:

Interstate counterfeit pill and methamphetamine ring charged: Nate Gartrell, "[Feds arrest 12, seize 137 pounds of meth, 33,000+ opiate pills, in bust of multi-state drug ring based in California](#)," *The Mercury News*, September 28, 2020.

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