

New Hampshire, March 2021 - November 2022

The opioid and fentanyl crises hit the citizens of the Granite State hard. After dropping off, the number of people poisoned and dying has increased to near-record levels. Local, state, and federal officials issued multiple warnings about various counterfeit pills being sold in the state: fake oxycodone and Xanax that contain fentanyl, or fake Adderall made with methamphetamine. Three students from Hanover High School needed to be hospitalized after they were poisoned by pills made to look like Xanax in March 2022. A Georgia man was sentenced to five years in federal prison for selling over 100 different foreign-sourced prescription drugs to customers in New Hampshire.

While fentanyl may be making the most headlines these days, New Hampshirites also have been exposed to counterfeit medicine by their doctors. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent warning letters to nine doctors and medical practices across New Hampshire, warning them to stop purchasing cancer medicine and Botox from known black market wholesalers.

Recent Incidents

November 2022

Fentanyl pills: Tim Callery, "Drug cartels use new tactics to try to reach more users in New Hampshire, Officials Say," WMUR9, November 3, 2022.

April 2022

Public warning: Tim Callery, "Public warning issued over fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills," *WMUR9*, April 29, 2022.

March 2022

Counterfeit pill poisonings: Nora Doyle-Burr, "<u>Drug probe unfolds after 3 Hanover High School students hospitalized</u>," *Valley News*, March 29, 2022.

November 2021

Drug trafficker sentenced: "Manchester Man sentenced to 90 months for drug trafficking conspiracy and firearm charges," U.S. Department of Justice, November 23, 2021.





October 2021

Counterfeit pills: Angeljean Chiaramida, "<u>Fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl, meth sold on Seacoast,</u>" *Foster's Daily Democrat*, October 7, 2021.

August 2021

Counterfeit pills: Scott Cook, "Law enforcement officials warn of counterfeit drugs as students head back to class," WMUR9, August 26, 2021.

May 2021

Unapproved medicines: "Georgia man sentenced to five years of probation for conspiracy to distribute unapproved drugs and smuggling of goods," U.S. Department of Justice, May 26, 2021.

March 2021

Counterfeit pills: Brooke Coupal, "Authorities: kids harmed after NH care facility worker replaced stolen medicine with counterfeit pills," WHDH, March 24, 2021.

Counterfeit Adderall: Cherise LeClerc, "Methamphetamine pills designed to look like Adderall found across New Hampshire," WMUR9, March 17, 2021.

