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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

New Jersey, July - December 2022

Counterfeit medicine news streamed steadily out of New Jersey in the second half of 2022. The U.S. Department of Justice indicted four men - two from Newark, one from North Haledon, and one from Kearny - for their roles in a multi-year fake pill drug ring whose pills prosecutors alleged were responsible for at least three overdoses. A Middlesex County man received a nine-year prison sentence for manufacturing hundreds of thousands of counterfeit Xanax pills that were sold to customers across the U.S. via darknet storefronts. A retired Mays Landing doctor was sentenced for selling misbranded weight-loss pills that he made out of a toxic substance never approved for human consumption.

Counterfeit medicine has also made its way into New Jersey when members of the medical profession purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 130 doctors and medical practices across the Garden State warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. More recently, a total of seven companies and individuals were named in a massive lawsuit filed by Gilead Sciences over the trafficking of counterfeit HIV medicines in 2021.

Recent Incidents

December 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Mount Laurel: Dino Flammia, "[Cops: Mount Laurel, NJ arrest nets 10,000 'rainbow fentanyl' pills targeting kids](#)," *NJ 101.5*, December 20, 2022.

November 2022

Manasquan man sentenced in fentanyl pill case: "[Monmouth County man sentenced to 188 months in prison for leading conspiracy to distribute cocaine and fentanyl analogue](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, November 4, 2022.

Middlesex County man sentenced for running drug trafficking ring: "[Dark web drug seller sentenced to 9 years in prison](#)," Manhattan District Attorney's Office, November 2, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedrug.org/NJ-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in New Jersey.



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October 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Mahwah: Logan Williamson, "[250 fentanyl pills, loaded Glock pistol Seized in Mahwah: police](#)," *Patch*, October 17, 2022.

August 2022

New Jersey man indicted for role in fentanyl pill ring: "[New Jersey man indicted after joint investigation uncovers interstate fentanyl mailing operation](#)," U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, August 23, 2022.

Charges filed in case involving fentanyl pill distribution: "[Four New Jersey men charged with fentanyl analogue distribution and money laundering charges](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, August 11, 2022.

Mays Landing man sentenced for selling misbranded, toxic pills: "[Retired New Jersey doctor convicted at trial of selling toxic chemical as weight-loss drug](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, August 8, 2022.

July 2022

Father and son arrested with fentanyl pills in Brick: Vin Ebenau, "[Father and son arrested in Brick, NJ for dealing drugs after neighbors report suspicious activity](#)," *WOMB*, July 27, 2022.

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