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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

New Mexico, July - December 2022

In the second half of 2022, fake pills made with fentanyl dominated counterfeit drug news in New Mexico. Sixteen search warrants issued as part of a federal investigation led to the seizure of over one million fentanyl pills in Albuquerque. Additionally, law enforcement seized fentanyl pills in Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Alamogordo, and Lincoln County. During a search of a vehicle at the port of Santa Teresa, agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 4,600 misbranded pills that a U.S. citizen was attempting to smuggle into the country.

Counterfeit medicine has also made its way into New Mexico 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 ten doctors and medical practices across New Mexico warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox.

Recent Incidents

December 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Lincoln County: Laila Freeman, "[Lincoln County officials find more than 200 pills of suspected fentanyl during traffic stop](#)," *KRQE*, December 31, 2022.

Women arrested in Alamogordo with fentanyl pills: Erika Esquivel, "[2 women arrested, accused of trafficking fentanyl in Alamogordo](#)," *KFOX14*, December 22, 2022.

Albuquerque man charged in case involving fentanyl pills: "[Albuquerque man charged in drug, firearms investigation](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Mexico, December 15, 2022.

November 2022

Santa Fe man arrested with fentanyl pills: Anthony Lederman, "[New Mexico State Police make fentanyl bust after dangerous chase](#)," *Santa Fe New Mexican*, November 30, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr.ug/NM-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in New Mexico.



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October 2022

Two residents of Albuquerque arrested for selling fentanyl pills: Matthew Reisen, "[APD: man, teen caught with fentanyl, guns in ABQ bust](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, October 15, 2022.

Police found fentanyl pills during traffic stop in Las Vegas: Ryan Lowery, "[NMSP: Traffic stop leads to discovery of 1,000 fentanyl pills](#)," *Las Vegas Optic*, October 13, 2022.

September 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Albuquerque: "[More than 1 million fentanyl pills seized in Albuquerque operation](#)," Federal Bureau of Investigation Albuquerque, September 12, 2022.

August 2022

Misbranded medicine seized at the port of Santa Teresa: "[CBP officers stop bologna and tramadol smuggling attempt](#)," U.S. Customs and Border Protection, August 26, 2022.

Albuquerque drug trafficker sentenced: "[Albuquerque drug trafficker sentenced to 17 years in prison](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Mexico, August 5, 2022.

July 2022

Albuquerque police seized over 14,000 fentanyl pills: Scott Brown, "[APD seize nearly \\$30k and thousands of fentanyl pills over two arrests](#)," *KRQE*, July 30, 2022.

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