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**COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT**

## Nevada, July - December 2022

A steady stream of counterfeit medicine news has come out of Nevada since July, with stories about fentanyl pills being most prevalent. While much of the news was out of Clark County, cases involving fentanyl pills also happened in Verdi, Sparks, Elko, and Reno. In July, a jury convicted a Las Vegas man of illegally importing and selling prescription drugs that he bought in bulk from India. Shipping records examined by federal investigators found that the defendant mailed out nearly 5,000 packages to customers over a two-month period in 2021.

Counterfeit medicine has also made its way into Nevada 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 35 doctors and medical practices across Nevada warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox. Authorities raided an unlicensed pharmacy operating out of Boulevard Mall at the end of 2022. A man who ran a different store in the mall reported being sold antibiotics with non-English packaging.

### Recent Incidents

#### December 2022

**Fentanyl pills seized in Las Vegas:** Gina Martinez, "[DEA seizes 2,000 fentanyl pills hidden in hollowed-out dictionary](#)," CBS News, December 22, 2022.

**Seven pounds of fentanyl pills and Xanax seized in Reno:** "[Police: convicted felon arrested with 60+ guns, numerous drugs in home](#)," 2News, December 12, 2022.

**Nevada resident sentenced:** "[Las Vegas man sentenced to prison for distributing fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, December 2, 2022.

**Unlicensed pharmacy operating in Las Vegas mall:** Darcy Spears, "[Mismanagement, shoddy security, racial inequity alleged at Boulevard Mall](#)," KTNV, December 1, 2022.

#### November 2022

**Elko woman found in possession of 18,000 fentanyl pills:** "[\\$1 million bail for Elko woman on fentanyl trafficking charges](#)," Elko Daily, November 22, 2022.

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October 2022

**Trio busted selling fentanyl pills in North Las Vegas:** Ana Gutierrez, "[3 charged in 21,000 fentanyl pill bust in Las Vegas](#)," *8NewsNow*, October 20, 2022.

**Las Vegas man sentenced for selling deadly fake pills:** Katelyn Newberg, "[Man sentenced to prison for selling 20-year-old woman deadly drugs](#)," *Las Vegas Journal-Review*, October 12, 2022.

September 2022

**Police seized fentanyl pills in Humboldt County:** "[Traffic stop leads to large seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine](#)," *2News*, October 6, 2022.

**Sparks man sold fentanyl pills out of barbershop:** "[Jury convicts Sparks man of distributing fentanyl](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, September 19, 2022.

July 2022

**Las Vegas man illegally imported and sold medicines:** David Charns, "[I-Team: Las Vegas man illegally sold erectile dysfunction, opioid medication through the mail, drug agents say](#)," *8NewsNow*, July 25, 2022.

**Child died after ingesting a fentanyl pill:** Vanessa Murphy, "[I-Team: Child dead after ingesting fentanyl while alone in Las Vegas hotel room](#)," *8NewsNow*, July 13, 2022.

**Man arrested in Verdi with fentanyl pills:** Audrey Owsley, "[WCSO: Man found with nearly 6 pounds of fentanyl pills during traffic stop](#)," *KOLO 8 NewsNow*, July 13, 2022.

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