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**COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT**

New York, August 2022 – January 2023

Fake prescription pills made with fentanyl and other drugs are dominating New York's medicine safety news. In just the last six months, law enforcement seized tens of thousands of fentanyl pills in Jamestown and several of New York City's boroughs; shut down trafficking operations in Buffalo, Hyde Park, and Utica; and sentenced a man who made and sold Xanax tablets and other controlled substances on the dark web.

New York's exposure to counterfeit drugs extends beyond fentanyl pills. [22 New York companies and 27 individuals](#) have been named in an ongoing Gilead Sciences lawsuit against drug sellers and distributors that [sold more than 85,000 counterfeit bottles of Gilead's HIV medicines to U.S. pharmacies](#). 2019 saw the shutdown of a fake pharmacy operation based in Queens that sold Americans [illegally imported prescription drugs, including millions of tramadol pills](#). From 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned 200 of the state's medical practices to stop buying medicine from unlicensed distributors that had been caught selling fake Botox or counterfeit Avastin.

## Recent Incidents

January 2023

**20,000 fentanyl pills and three kilograms of powder seized, the Bronx:** Eliza Chasan, ["Virginia man arrested after diaper box filled with fentanyl seized in Wendy's parking lot,"](#) WAVY 10, January 6, 2023.

December 2022

**County reports new forms of fake oxycodone pills made of fentanyl, Dutchess County:** ["Drug task force seizes new version of counterfeit oxycodone,"](#) Mid Hudson News, December 22, 2022.

**Nine pounds of fentanyl pills seized during traffic stop, Jamestown:** David Rowley, ["Miami woman facing federal fentanyl charge following Jamestown traffic stop,"](#) Chautauqua Today, December 13, 2022.

**Arrest of alleged fentanyl pill dealer, Hyde Park:** ["Dutchess County Drug Task Force busts alleged counterfeit pill-pusher,"](#) Mid Hudson News, December 9, 2022.

November 2022

**20,000 fentanyl pills seized, Queens:** Coral Murphy Marcos, ["LI man indicted after carrying two kilos of fentanyl in Queens: DA,"](#) Patch, Queens NY, December 12, 2022.

**10,000 fentanyl pills and 7.7 kilograms of powder, seized in the Bronx:** Jonathan Rizk. ["Man, 63, had over 17 pounds of fentanyl, 10k counterfeit pills, worth \\$2.5M:"](#)

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Scan the QR CODE or go to <https://safedr ug/NY-page> for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in New York.



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[prosecutor](#),” PIX 11, December 14, 2022.

**32,000 fentanyl pills seized from hotel, Queens:** “[Approximately 32,000 fentanyl pills seized at JFK airport hotel: two men from California arrested](#),” Drug Enforcement Administration, November 23, 2022.

**14 in the Buffalo-area indicted for cocaine and fentanyl pill trafficking:** “[Attorney General James announces takedown of cocaine and fentanyl trafficking ring in western New York](#),” New York State Attorney General, November 3, 2022.

**Man sentenced for making and selling fake Xanax on dark web:** “[Dark web drug seller sentenced to 9 years in prison](#),” Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, November 2, 2022.

October 2022

**300,000 fentanyl pills and nine kilograms seized, New York City:** “[Authorities seize more than 300K pills, 20 lbs. of powder fentanyl](#),” 1011 Now, October 13, 2022.

August 2022

**Smoke shop busted for selling fentanyl pills and other drugs, Utica:** “[Owner of Utica store indicted on drug possession charges](#),” Daily Sentinel, November 26, 2022.

**8,000 fentanyl pills seized at mailing facilities, Staten Island:** “[New Jersey man indicted after joint investigation uncovers interstate fentanyl mailing operation](#),” Drug Enforcement Administration, August 23, 2022.

**Kilograms of fentanyl and cocaine and a pill press seized in a residence next to a daycare in the Bronx:** “[Massachusetts fugitive charged with possessing fentanyl and cocaine](#),” U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York, August 11, 2022.

**More than 22 kilograms of narcotics and 75,000 counterfeit pills in the Bronx:** Síle Moloney, “[Mt Hope: multi-drug seizure of heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, crystal meth and counterfeit pills](#),” Norwood News, August 9, 2022.

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