

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES[®]
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Pennsylvania, July - December 2022

Counterfeit medicine news out of Pennsylvania since mid-2022 has primarily revolved around fake pills made with fentanyl and other drugs. Police seized these pills in East Huntingdon, Manheim Township, and Hazleton. A 16-month-old in Danville survived a fentanyl pill poisoning, but a Warren man was not so lucky, and people in Lancaster and Bethlehem were sentenced for selling fake pills that killed. A Philadelphia man was sentenced for making fake prescription painkillers using a variety of narcotics, including fentanyl and Xylazine, while a Brighton Heights man was making fake Xanax using etizolam.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Pennsylvania from places other than street corners or social media apps. Sometimes, members of the medical profession have purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 81 doctors and medical practices across Pennsylvania warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. More recently, a total of six companies and individuals in the Keystone State were named in a massive lawsuit filed by Gilead Sciences over the trafficking of counterfeit HIV medicines in 2021.

Recent Incidents

December 2022

Hazleton police arrested local found with fentanyl pills: Nico Rossi, "[Man allegedly found with 530 suspected fentanyl pills facing charges](#)," *PA Homepage*, January 5, 2023.

Warren man poisoned and killed by suspected fentanyl pills: Brian Ferry, "[Youngsville woman charged in suspected fentanyl death](#)," *Times Observer*, January 24, 2023.

November 2022

16-month-old in Danville poisoned by fentanyl pill: Rick Dandes, "[Parent charged after child suffers fentanyl overdose](#)," *The Daily Item*, November 24, 2022.

Malvern man pleaded guilty to selling fentanyl pills: "[West Chester drug dealer pleads guilty to purchasing hundreds of deadly fentanyl pills disguised as oxycodone](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, November 14, 2022.

October 2022

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Man admitted to selling fentanyl pill that killed: "[Lancaster man pleads guilty to selling fatal fentanyl-laced Percocet](#)," Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, October 26, 2022.

Erie man sentenced for dealing fentanyl pills: "[Erie man sentenced to prison for selling fentanyl-laced pills](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Pennsylvania, October 4, 2022.

September 2022

Man pleaded guilty to fentanyl pill death in Bethlehem: "[Man admits to giving woman fentanyl pills that caused her overdose death](#)," WFMZ-TV, September 21, 2022.

Manheim Township man arrested with fentanyl pills: "[Drug task force arrests Manheim Township man with 3,472 fentanyl pills](#)," Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, September 8, 2022.

August 2022

NJ man convicted in federal court of selling misbranded drugs: "[Retired New Jersey doctor convicted at trial of selling toxic chemical as weight-loss drug](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, August 8, 2022.

July 2022

Man possessed fake Xanax pills and pill press: Torsten Ove, "[Brighton Heights criminal admits to possession of fake drugs and pill press](#)," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 27, 2022.

Philadelphia man sentenced for making fake pills: "[Philadelphia felon sentenced to 10 years in prison for counterfeit pill operation, firearms offenses](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, July 27, 2022.

7,400 fentanyl pills seized from East Huntingdon home: Renatta Signorini, "[Authorities confiscate 7,400 pills, break up Westmoreland counterfeit pill supply chain](#)," TribLIVE, July 1, 2022.

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