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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Rhode Island, February 2022 - February 2023

The counterfeit medicine news out of Rhode Island over the past year paints a grim picture of the dangers posed to residents of the state. Police have seized fake prescription pain pills made with fentanyl and fake Adderall made with methamphetamine. Even more disturbing is the news that criminals are using pill presses to make their own pills for distribution. In just one case, law enforcement seized over 660,000 counterfeit Adderall pills made with methamphetamine from a Cumberland resident who had two pill presses.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Rhode Island from places other than street corners or social media apps. The state has seen residents illegally importing and reselling steroids and prescription drugs, including cancer treatments. 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 six doctors and medical practices across Rhode Island warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers.

Recent Incidents

February 2023

Suspected fentanyl powder, pills, and pill press seized in Woonsocket: Jack Perry, "[Police seize 12 kilograms of suspected fentanyl, marijuana plants, guns in Woonsocket,](#)" *The Providence Journal*, February 3, 2023.

November 2022

Sentence given to North Providence man who trafficked drugs, including fentanyl pills: Katie Mulvaney, "['Ringleader' sentenced to 15 years for orchestrating shootings, drug trafficking,](#)" *The Providence Journal*, November 18, 2022.

October 2022

North Providence man charged with selling fentanyl pills: "[Convicted felon awaiting trial charged with trafficking fentanyl, unlawful possession of a firearm,](#)" U.S. Department of Justice, October 20, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr.ug/RI-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in Rhode Island.



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September 2022

Cumberland man pleaded guilty in case involving fake Adderall pills: "[Cumberland man to plead guilty in largest meth-laced pill seizure](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, September 19, 2022.

June 2022

Cranston man sentenced in fake pill case: "[Cranston man who hid drugs in child's backpack gets 7-year sentence](#)," *WJAR*, June 28, 2022.

Johnston man admitted to selling fentanyl pills: "[Johnston man admits to trafficking thousands of fentanyl pills](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, June 7, 2022.

May 2022

Man sentenced to four years for selling fentanyl pills: "[West Warwick man sentenced for trafficking thousands of fentanyl pills](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, May 25, 2022.

April 2022

Massachusetts man in Providence court over fentanyl pills: Ken Paiva, "[32-year-old arrested after allegedly supplying drugs in fatal overdose death](#)," *Fall River Reporter*, April 2, 2022.

March 2022

Cranston and Providence men indicted in fentanyl pill case: "[Two Rhode Island men indicted in large-scale fentanyl trafficking conspiracy](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, March 17, 2022.

February 2022

Providence man admitted to possession of fentanyl pills: "[Providence man admits to possessing cocaine and fentanyl with intent to distribute. illegally possessing ammunition](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, February 8, 2022.

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