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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

South Carolina, June 2022 - February 2023

Federal seizures of fentanyl in the Carolinas [increased 15,000 percent from 2020 to 2022](#), and recent news about counterfeit prescription pills in South Carolina reflects that. Deputies with the York County Sheriff's Office seized 30 kilos of fentanyl and seven pill presses in Clover. Law enforcement found an eighth pill press and made fentanyl pill seizures of various sizes in Columbia, Greenwood and Lancaster. A Greenwood man died after taking a fake pill in June and three York County inmates were treated for fentanyl pill poisonings in September. Five people were sentenced for their participation in a Rock Hill-based operation that made and sold fake Roxicodone made of fentanyl in three states. Another defendant received a more-than-10-year sentence for providing fake Roxicodone that killed a Conway man.

The problem of counterfeit medicines isn't limited to fentanyl pills in South Carolina. In August, a Lexington man was sentenced for making and shipping unapproved workout supplements. The state has seen prosecutions for illegally imported Xanax, oxycodone, and ED drugs. Counterfeits may have made their way into medical practices as well: Between 2012 and 2016 the FDA warned 41 South Carolina doctors to stop buying cancer treatments and injectable medicines from unlicensed distributors that had been caught selling counterfeits.

Recent Incidents

February 2023

Sentencing in fake Roxicodone ring: "[Rock Hill woman sentenced to federal prison for involvement in fentanyl distribution ring](#)," Drug Enforcement Administration, February 2, 2023.

January 2023

1,800 pills seized, Lancaster: John Marks, "[Almost two dozen guns, fentanyl found Thursday in Lancaster County drug bust](#)," *The Herald*, January 26, 2023.

December 2022

Seizure of 1,000 pills and a pill press, Greenwood: "[Greenwood man faces drug, gun charges](#)," *Greenwood Index-Journal*, December 14, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to [safedr.ug/SC-page](https://safedr ug/SC-page) for more information on counterfeit incidents in South Carolina.



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Sentencing in Conway death: [“Conway woman sentenced to more than a decade in federal prison for role in fentanyl overdose death,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, December 8, 2022.

October 2022

30 kgs of fentanyl and seven pill presses seized, Clover: Connor Loomis, [“6 charged: 30,000+ grams of fentanyl, 2,500+ of cocaine, among other drugs seized in South Carolina, deputies say,”](#) Fox 8, October 21, 2022.

September 2022

20,000 fentanyl pills seized, Columbia: Winston Rogers, [“Columbia traffic stop finds thousands of counterfeit fentanyl pills, Texas couple arrested,”](#) Fox 28 Savannah, September 27, 2022.

Fentanyl pill poisonings, York County: Nathaniel Puente, [“Three inmates overdose at York County jail, five charged,”](#) WCNC, September 8, 2022.

August 2022

Sentencing for illegal workout supplements: [“South Carolina man sentenced for unlawful distribution of anabolic steroids and unapproved steroid-like drugs,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, August 21, 2022.

200 fentanyl pills seized, Greenwood: [“‘Large amount’ of drugs found in home near school leads to arrest of Greenville man, police say,”](#) WYFF 4, August 12, 2022.

Sentencing in fake Roxicodone ring: [“Jury finds three Rock Hill men guilty of large multi-state drug operation,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, August 23, 2022.

July 2022

Sentencing in fake Roxicodone ring: [“Rock Hill Man sentenced to more than 2 decades in federal prison for illegal drug sales,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, July 21, 2022.

June 2022

Death, Greenwood: [“Greenwood woman faces manslaughter, drug charges,”](#) Greenwood Index-Journal, September 16, 2022.

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