

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

South Dakota, April 2022 – January 2023

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced at the end of December that they had [seized nearly 4.7 million lethal doses of fentanyl](#) in their Omaha Division, which covers South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. The DEA warned that much of the fentanyl is trafficked as fake prescription pills, [60 percent of which contain a lethal dose](#).

South Dakota mirrors these trends. Recent busts have yielded pounds of fentanyl and counterfeit pills: 3.4 pounds of fentanyl and 53,000 counterfeit pills made of fentanyl during a traffic stop, 16 pounds of pills and powder at another. Investigations have implicated drug traffickers from as far away as Guatemala and fentanyl poisoning deaths continue.

Recent Incidents

January 2023:

South Dakota officials warn about kids buying fake pills on social media: Anna Peters, [“Kids being targeted online to buy fentanyl, officials say,”](#) *KELO*, January 23, 2023.

November 2022:

Law enforcement make \$2.3 million fentanyl pill and powder bust on the Lake Traverse reservation: Josh Chilson, [“Traffic stop results in seizure of 16 pounds of fentanyl,”](#) *South Dakota Public Broadcasting*, November 30, 2022.

October 2022:

Police discover counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl in Pierre: [“Pierre police discover counterfeit pain relief pills laced with fentanyl,”](#) *Fox Dakota News Now*, October 12, 2022.

September 2022:

Man sentenced for counterfeit pill distribution: [“Kansas man sentenced in fentanyl conspiracy,”](#) U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of South Dakota, September 1, 2022.

July 2022:

Alleged counterfeit pill traffickers indicted: [“Four people charged with conspiracy to distribute fentanyl in Northeastern South Dakota,”](#) U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of South Dakota, July 19, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedr ug/SD-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in South Dakota.



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May 2022:

Alleged Sioux Falls drug traffickers arrested in Guatemala: Julian Resendiz, "[Guatemalan police nab Mexicans wanted for distributing fentanyl, cocaine in South Dakota](#)," *Border Report*, May 3, 2022.

April 2022:

Woman sentenced in the 2020 fentanyl pill death of a Porcupine teen: Shalom Bar Gee, "[Judge gives woman 8-year prison sentence in overdose death of 16-year-old boy](#)," *Rapid City Journal*, April 28, 2022.

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