

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

Utah, January - December 2022

Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl have impacted Utah since the November 2016 arrest of [Aaron Shamo](#) in Cottonwood. In the past year, these deadly pills continued to take lives and harm communities across the state. Law enforcement seized over 44 pounds of fentanyl pills in just three traffic stops in [January](#), [February](#), and [March](#). The U.S. Department of Justice indicted members of a [St. George-based drug trafficking ring](#) in February. More recent reporting by the Washington Post noted that this organization was alleged to have been bringing between [20,000 - 30,000 fake fentanyl pills](#) into St. George every month.

Counterfeit medicine can find its way to Utahns besides being sold on social media, shady websites, or street corners. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 38 doctors and medical practices throughout the state warning them to stop purchasing medications from known black market wholesalers. The drugs being sold included cancer treatments and Botox.

Recent Incidents

December 2022

Fentanyl pill dealer charged: Terra Sokol, "[East Wenatchee man tries selling fentanyl on Telegram](#)," *KPQ*, December 23, 2023.

October 2022

Fentanyl pills seized: Jared Page, "[Idaho woman arrested following high-speed chase, crash in Kane County](#)," *Gephardt Daily*, October 24, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in Washington County: Ashley Imlay, "[2 arrested after Utah traffic stop yields estimated \\$2M in fentanyl](#)," *KSL.com*, October 7, 2022.

September 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Salt Lake City: Derick Fox, "[Weber County man arrested with 4,100 fentanyl pills and 378 heroin doses at Salt Lake airport](#)," *ABC4*, October 3, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer indicted: Bradford Betz, "[Utah man arrested after police seize fentanyl, heroin, meth, stolen guns from Salt Lake City storage unit](#)," *Fox News*, September 11, 2022.

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



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March 2022

Nevada fentanyl pill dealer charged: [“One individual charged as law enforcement targets fentanyl shipped from Las Vegas to Utah,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, March 9, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in Summit: Jeff Richards, [“Troopers find 25 pounds of suspected fentanyl pills during Summit I-15 traffic stop,”](#) *St. George News*, March 7, 2022.

February 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Cedar City: Jeff Richards, [“3 men arrested after 8.5 pounds of fentanyl pills found during traffic stop in Cedar City,”](#) *KSL.com*, February 23, 2022.

Members of drug trafficking ring indicted: Cody Blowers, [“U.S. Attorney’s Office indicts 11 St. George defendants in massive drug trafficking sting,”](#) *St. George News*, February 19, 2022.

January 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in St. George: Lisa Merkley, [“Couple arrested in Utah charged with having 11 pounds of fentanyl in car,”](#) *KSL.com*, January 30, 2022.

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