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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Virginia, January – December 2022

Virginia has seen an uptick in incidents involving counterfeit pills made with fentanyl in the last year. Teens have died in Dale City, Manassas, Virginia Beach and Woodbridge and a toddler died in Gainesville. Authorities seized fentanyl pills in Culpeper, Haymarket and Ruckersville and sentenced defendants from cases involving past pill deaths in Ashland and Harrisonburg. Federal courts also sentenced the final defendant in a ring that sold fake Adderall made with methamphetamine.

Virginia has a significant and varied history with counterfeit drugs: 17 Virginian men were hospitalized after taking a supplement that contained an undeclared diabetes drug and authorities shut down an illicit steroids and fake medicine lab in Springfield (2019). A company in Arlington sold more than \$12.4 million in medications shipped from unreliable sources in India, Switzerland, and Turkey (2009 –2015). Fairfax County residents were sickened by medicines that had allegedly been smuggled from Central America (2011). Between 2012 and 2015, the FDA warned 45 different medical practices in Virginia to stop buying Botox and cancer treatments from unlicensed sources that had been caught selling counterfeits.

Recent Incidents

December 2022:

Fentanyl pill seizure, Culpeper: [“Two arrested in Culpeper with 5,000 pressed fentanyl pills,”](#) *Culpeper Times*, December 18, 2022.

One fentanyl pill death and two poisonings in Manassas and Woodbridge: Nick Ianelli, [“Teen overdoses in Va., Md. tied to counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl,”](#) *WTOP*, December 9, 2022.

November 2022:

Teen sentenced in the 2021 death of Ashland 16-year-old: Mark Bowes, [“Hanover teen gets 1 year in fentanyl overdose death of Patrick Henry High School student, 16,”](#) *Richmond Times Dispatch*, November 17, 2022.

Fentanyl pill seizure, Haymarket: [“1,000 fentanyl pills seized. 2 arrested in Haymarket,”](#) *Potomac Local News*, November 15, 2022.

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21-year old sentenced in the 2019 death of Harrisonburg teen: [“SnapChat sale of fentanyl-laced pills leads to federal prison term for Harrisonburg man,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, November 8, 2022.

October 2022:

Large drug seizure, including fentanyl pills, Greene County: [“Greene County man indicted for possessing over 10,000 fentanyl pills and a kilogram of fentanyl powder,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, January 12, 2023.

July 2022

Men charged with supplying pills to Wise County teen dealers: [“California pair indicted for supplying fentanyl linked to Wise County teen overdoses,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, July 20, 2022.

Man sentenced for fake Adderall trafficking, Fairfax: [“Man sentenced for conspiracy to distribute meth on the darknet,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, July 12, 2022.

Fentanyl pill seizure, Prince William County: [“Prince William County Police discover over 20k pills in fire extinguisher,”](#) NBC 12, July 10, 2022.

June 2022

Toddler death, Gainesville: Matt Pusatory, [“Mom wanted in 20-month-old son's fentanyl overdose death turns herself in,”](#) WUSA 9, December 9, 2022.

April 2022

Deaths of a 15-year-old in Woodbridge and a 14-year-old in Dale City: Brielle Ashford, Matthew Torres [“Over 20,000 laced Percocet pills found in car trunk in Prince William Co.,”](#) WUSA 9, July 8, 2022.

January 2022:

Teen death, Virginia Beach: [“Forever 16: America's teens succumbing to deadly fentanyl,”](#) France 24, August 10, 2022.

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