

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

Vermont, June 2021 – January 2023

One-quarter of Vermonters who died from opioids in the first half of 2022 had also ingested [xylazine](#), a veterinary drug not approved for human use. Vermont suffered the [greatest number of opioid deaths on record](#) in 2021 despite providing free fentanyl test strips to potential users. In December 2021, a Bethel resident pleaded guilty to participating in an international drug trafficking operation that distributed controlled substances, including prescription opioids. Investigators seized more than 14,000 pills containing Schedule II and IV drugs.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Vermont from places other than street corners and social media apps. Sometimes, members of the medical profession have purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned four medical practices in Vermont for buying black market cancer treatments, counterfeit osteoporosis medications and Botox from unsafe sources. In 2017, federal authorities arrested a North Carolina man who tried to smuggle 200 pounds of counterfeit Xanax over the Canadian border into Troy via sled. Vermont is also one of a handful of states seeking to import medicines from Canada, [undermining the Drug Supply Chain Security Act](#), and risking exposing its citizens to unreliable medicines.

Recent Incidents

April 2022:

Sentencing of Lyndonville bulk shipper who repackaged and sold unapproved versions of pet medications: "[Lyndonville woman sentenced for selling misbranded pet medications](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Vermont, April 21, 2022.

March 2022:

Georgia man charged with drug sales, including hundreds of fentanyl pills, in South Burlington: "[Melvin Hill charged with selling fentanyl](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Vermont, March 15, 2022.

December 2021:

Bethel man sentenced for importing and selling opioids and muscle relaxants: "[Bethel man pleads guilty to conspiracy to distribute opioids](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Vermont, December 7, 2021.

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

