

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

Washington, July 2022 – January 2023

Deadly counterfeit prescription pills made with fentanyl have dominated news in Washington since 2017. The last six months were no different. New outlets reported on pill deaths in Centralia and Seattle, and on a steady stream of small fentanyl pill seizures. Law enforcement seized a pill press in Maryville and confiscated about a million pills in larger busts in Bellingham, Burien, East Wenatchee, Seattle, the-Tri-Cities, and Yakima. Large-scale drug traffickers and a dealer who sold pills that killed a Mossyrock woman received substantial prison sentences.

Fake medicine has a larger scope than fentanyl pills, however. In January, Gilead Sciences named a drug wholesaler in Tukwila in a lawsuit to stop sales of counterfeit HIV medicine across the country. Authorities shut down steroid and anti-anxiety pill operations in Bremerton and Seattle in 2018 and 2019. The FDA warned 56 doctors to stop buying medicine from black market distributors who sold counterfeit cancer medicines or fake Botox (2012 – 2015).

Recent Incidents

January 2023:

Pill seizure, Yakima: [“FBI finds 120K fentanyl pills in “one of the largest-ever drug seizures in Yakima County,” KIMA, January 11, 2023.](#)

December 2022:

Pill seizure, Burien: Zach Anders, [“One of King County's largest drug busts yields \\$10M worth of drugs, over 478K fentanyl pills,” Q13 Fox, December 22, 2022.](#)

Pill seizure, Tri-Cities region: Cameron Probert, [“100,000 fentanyl pills and meth seized in huge Eastern WA bust in Tri-Cities,” Tri-City Herald, December 15, 2022.](#)

Man sentenced for role in a large drug distribution ring: [“Spanaway, Washington man sentenced to eight years in prison for key role in drug distribution ring,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, December 13, 2022.

Pill seizure, East Wenatchee: [“Jailed East Wenatchee man alleged to be biggest source of fentanyl in area,” 560 KPQ, December 12, 2022.](#)

November 2022:

Scan the QR CODE or go to [safedr.ug/WA-page](https://safedr ug/WA-page) for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Washington.



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

Three men sentenced for dark web sales of fentanyl pills across the U.S.: [“Three Washington men sentenced to more than a decade in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute fentanyl and related crimes,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, November 4, 2022.

Death, Centralia: [“Drug overdose death leads to multiple arrests, guns and fentanyl pills seized in Centralia,”](#) KOMO News, November 3, 2022.

October 2022:

Pill seizure, Richland and Kennewick: [“Woman arrested in Tri-Cities with over 14,000 fentanyl pills, 1.5 lbs of meth,”](#) Big Country News Connection, October 29, 2022.

Pill seizure, Seattle: Sarah Rumpf, [“\\$1.5M worth of drugs seized from vacant Seattle apartment,”](#) Fox News, October 25, 2022.

Man found guilty in Mossyrock pill death: [“JNET: Second man found guilty in 2020 overdose death of Mossyrock woman,”](#) The Chronicle, October 20, 2022.

September 2022:

Issaquah man sentenced for darknet drug sales: [“Issaquah, Washington man sentenced to 7 years in prison for dealing fentanyl and other drugs on the darknet,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, September 23, 2022.

July 2022:

Pill seizure, Bellingham: [“Three arrested in connection with ten kilos of fentanyl pills trafficked in Whatcom County,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, October 21, 2022.

Death, Seattle: [“William Charles Patterson, obituary,”](#) Mercer Island Reporter, undated.

Pill press seized, Marysville: Jake Goldstein-Street, [“Charges: Marysville residents bought fentanyl equipment from China,”](#) The Everett Herald, July 22, 2022.

Pill seizure, Seattle: [“Detectives seize fentanyl, stolen guns from north Seattle drug trafficker,”](#) SPD Blotter, Seattle Police Department, July 15, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to safedrug.org/WA-page for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Washington.

