

 *The Partnership for*
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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

West Virginia, July 2022 – January 2023

Authorities are increasingly focused on the threat counterfeit pills pose to West Virginians. Since July, law enforcement in West Virginia have seized counterfeit pills made with fentanyl in Keyser and Morgantown and shut down an alleged pill press operation in St. Albans. Federal courts sentenced pill dealers caught in Huntington and Martinsburg. The media reported a counterfeit pill poisoning in Kingwood.

However, it's not all fentanyl: December saw the federal indictment of a New Cumberland man who allegedly received Bulgarian controlled substance medicines concealed in large spools of yarn and repackaged them to sell in 90- or 180-tablet quantities. Agents recovered almost 60,000 sedatives and opioid painkillers from his home.

In the past, law enforcement dismantled an illegal steroid lab in Huntington (2020) and a St. Albans-based fake Xanax operation (2015). DEA agents intercepted counterfeit Adderall bound for West Virginia (2019). In addition, the FDA warned 18 different medical practices in West Virginia to stop buying their drugs from unlicensed distributors that sold counterfeit cancer medicines or fake Botox (2012 – 2016).

Recent Incidents

January 2023:

Martinsburg man sentenced for fentanyl and fentanyl pill sales: "[Heroin dealer sentenced for selling fatal dose of fentanyl](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, January 6, 2023.

December 2022:

Illegally imported prescription drugs seized, New Cumberland: "[Hancock County man indicted in international drug operation](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, December 14, 2022.

Pill seizure in Keyser: "[10,000 fentanyl pill seized in large Keyser drug bust](#)," *Cumberland Times, News*, December 10, 2022.

August 2022:

Pill operation busted, St. Albans: Alyssa Hannahs, "[DEA finds materials to manufacture pills inside apartment; one in custody](#)," *WSAZ 3*, August 29, 2022.

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



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Pill seizure, Morgantown: Savannah Shriver, "[Search warrant leads law enforcement to 15,000 fentanyl pills in Morgantown.](#)" *Times West Virginian*, August 25, 2022.

State-wide warning about fentanyl pills: Matt Harvey, "[High-quality, stamped cartel fentanyl in pill form now coming to West Virginia. U.S. Attorney says.](#)" *Morgantown News*, August 24, 2022.

Man sentenced for fentanyl pill possession, Huntington: "[Detroit man sentenced to prison for fentanyl crime.](#)" U.S. Department of Justice, August 24, 2022.

July 2022:

Kingwood resident sold fake oxycodone: C. Allan, "[Man allegedly sold fentanyl disguised as oxycodone in Preston County.](#)" *12 WBOY*, July 18, 2022.

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