

# THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN WISCONSIN

**Madison, August 2016: Pharmacist sentenced for importing 4+ million doses of fake medicines that were sold to U.S. customers via an unlicensed offshore pharmacy.**

**Milwaukee, June 2019: Man and woman charged in the fake Percocet death of Adam Revolinski.**

**April 2015: 2 Wisconsin doctors were among more than 270 in the US warned by FDA about buying counterfeit cancer treatments.**

## THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN AN UPSURGE IN COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION PILLS MASQUERADING AS PAINKILLERS AND XANAX.

These pills are disguised as real medications but made with deadly fentanyl or its even deadlier variants, and even a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes of ingesting it.

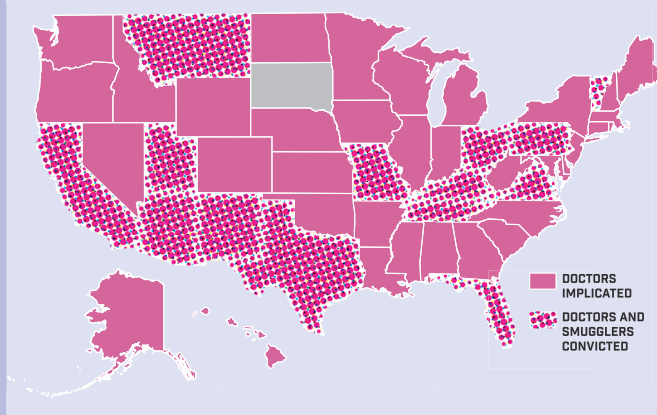
Fentanyl is a serious threat in Wisconsin. In June 2019, 2 people were charged with selling the fentanyl-laced pills that killed Adam Revolinski. The toll fentanyl was taking in Wisconsin was initially revealed in July 2017, when Milwaukee's medical examiner's office announced that fentanyl caused 59 deaths in the first six months of the year.

## 27 WISCONSIN DOCTORS LINKED TO FAKE DRUG RINGS

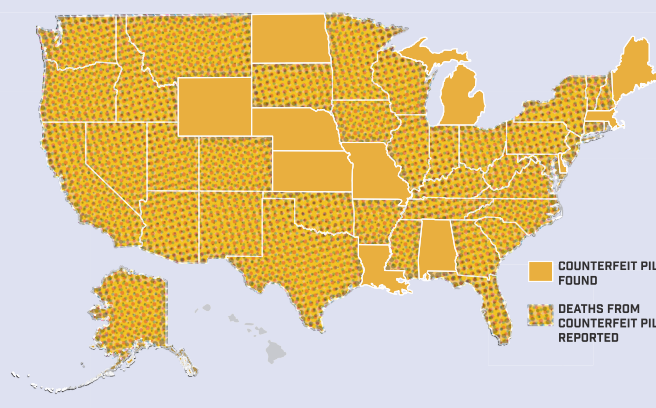
Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Wisconsin as well. 27 different medical practices in Wisconsin have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment. 🇺🇸

## OPENING THE U.S.'S CLOSED DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PUTS WISCONSIN LIVES AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**Fake Cancer Drug Crisis**



**Fentanyl-Laced Counterfeits & Related Deaths**



# COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN WISCONSIN (2012–2020)



BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

NOTE THAT EACH INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE AFFECTED HUNDREDS OF WISCONSIN RESIDENTS.

## COUNTERFEIT PILLS CONTAINING FENTANYL

- June 2019:** A Milwaukee pair were charged with providing the fentanyl-laced pills that killed Adam Revolinski on August 19, 2018.<sup>1</sup>
- April 2018:** Elkhart officers responding to a traffic crash found a man slumped over his steering wheel after overdosing on a counterfeit Percocet made with fentanyl.<sup>2</sup>
- February 2018:** A deputy in Waukesha County was treated with naloxone and taken to the hospital after being exposed to fentanyl while performing a traffic stop. A second deputy who had less severe symptoms was also treated.<sup>3</sup>
- July 2017:** A Menasha police officer needed two doses of naloxone after being exposed to fentanyl after responding to a drug overdose death.<sup>4</sup>
- July 2017:** The state crime lab announced that police officers can use their facility to test unidentified powders due to the risk posed by fentanyl.<sup>5</sup>
- July 2017:** The medical examiner's office announced that fentanyl caused 59 deaths in Milwaukee in the first half of 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- June 2017:** The discovery of fentanyl and other drugs triggered a two-week lockdown and a search of the entire Oshkosh Correctional Institution.<sup>7</sup>
- March 2017:** Wisconsin experienced its first carfentanil death with the death of a 48-year-old man in Milwaukee.<sup>8</sup>

## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to two Wisconsin doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.<sup>9</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including three doctors offices in Wisconsin, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>10</sup>

## MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** 14 doctors offices and practices in Wisconsin were among more than 1,227 doctors nationwide who received warning letters from the FDA to stop buying infusion drugs from TC Medical Group, which sold more than \$33 million worth of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.<sup>11</sup>
- July 2013:** The FDA warned three doctors and medical practices in Wisconsin to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>12</sup>
- November 2012:** Three Wisconsin doctors were among the 350 nationwide that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.<sup>13</sup>

## OTHER MEDICATIONS

- August 2016:** Pharmacist and author Marla Ahlgrimm was sentenced to 2 years probation and to forfeit more than \$200,000 after she pleaded guilty to mail and wire fraud charges for her part in a drug importation scheme. With Nevada pharmacologist Balbir Bhogal, Ahlgrimm illegally imported medications from India to be sold to the U.S. customers of a Costa Rica-based fake online pharmacy.<sup>14</sup>
- September 2012:** Two Wisconsin doctors were among the 23 U.S. doctors that received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of the osteoporosis injectable medications Prolia and Aclasta from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs.com subsidiary.<sup>15</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

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