

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES®
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Illinois, July 2022 - January 2023

A steady stream of counterfeit medicine news has come out of Illinois since mid-2022. A July warning from the Illinois Poison Center about the dangers of counterfeit pills made with fentanyl did not prevent three Antioch teenagers from being poisoned by fake Percocet pills the following month. Thankfully, all three survived. Police in Caseyville seized ten pounds of fake pills made with fentanyl and police arrested a Bellflower man who was in possession of hundreds of pills.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Illinois from places other than street corners or social media apps. Sometimes, members of the medical profession have purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 135 doctors and medical practices across Illinois warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox. In April 2016, an Evanston oncologist relinquished her license to settle charges that she used nearly \$1 million in illegal cancer medicines sourced from a Canadian company on her patients from 2008 through 2012.

Recent Incidents

January 2023

Hundreds of fentanyl pills seized in McLean County: Brendan Denison, "[Bellflower man arrested on fentanyl delivery charge](#)," *The Pantagraph*, January 28, 2023.

Man sentenced in case involving fentanyl pills seized in Madison County: Joey Schneider, "[Undocumented man sentenced over Metro East fentanyl, heroin bust](#)," *Fox2 Now*, January 19, 2023.

December 2022

Drug trafficking ring allegedly sold fake oxycodone: "[Fifteen defendants charged in a multi-state drug trafficking organization](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, December 15, 2022.

Caseyville Police seized ten pounds of fentanyl pills: Chris Hayes, "[Traffic stops net big drug busts for one small department](#)," *Fox2 Now*, December 12, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr.org/IL-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in Illinois.



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September 2022

DEA Chicago Field Division seized 440,000 fentanyl pills: Chuck Goudie and Barb Markoff, Christine Tressel and Ross Weidner, "[More than 440K fentanyl pills seized by Chicago DEA agents in 4 months](#)," *ABC7 Chicago*, September 27, 2022.

August 2022

Three teens poisoned by counterfeit Percocet pills in Antioch: Michelle Gallardo, "[Antioch police warn of uptick in opioid overdoses after 3 teens OD over weekend](#)," *ABC7 Chicago*, August 24, 2022.

July 2022

Illinois Poison Center issued a warning about fake fentanyl pills: Kayleigh Randle, "[Pills laced with fentanyl raise risk of overdose](#)," *WIFR*, July 14, 2022.

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