

# Indiana, July - December 2022

Counterfeit medicine news out of Indiana in the second half of 2022 was dominated by stories involving fake pills made with fentanyl. Multiple cases came out of Evansville, including federal charges against two men who were allegedly purchasing pound quantities of fentanyl powder and manufacturing counterfeit pills. Additional seizures of fentanyl pills happened in Henderson, Elkhart, and Vanderburgh County, and residents of Michigan City and Indianapolis received 37 and 17-year sentences, respectively, for selling fentanyl pills.

However, street corners and social media are not the only way that fake medicine has found its way to Hoosiers. 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 38 doctors and medical practices across Mississippi warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox.

## Recent Incidents

#### December 2022

Michigan City man sentenced for selling fentanyl pills: "Michigan City man sentenced to 37 years for trafficking fentanyl," 16 WNDU-TV, December 22, 2022.

Arrests in October fentanyl pill death: Adam Kight, "Another teen arrested in fatal overdose investigation in Evansville," WEVV, December 16, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in Vanderburgh County: Adam Kight, "<u>Thousands of fentanyl pills found in Vanderburgh Co. home where kids were living, authorities say</u>," *WEVV*, December 8, 2022.

Woman sentenced in fentanyl pill-related death case: Houston Harwood, "Evansville woman draws 25-year prison sentence in toddler's fentanyl-overdose death," Evansville Courier & Press, December 2, 2022.





#### November 2022

Indianapolis man sentenced in drug case involving fentanyl pills: "Career drug dealer sentenced to over 17 years in federal prison for armed trafficking of fentanyl while on community corrections," Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, November 20, 2022.

Logansport man convicted of selling fentanyl pills linked to death: "Man convicted for selling pills that caused fatal overdose," *Pharos-Tribune*, November 16, 2022.

Evansville Police seized thousands of fentanyl pills: Houston Harwood, "Police: Thousands of fentanyl pills, 15 guns seized in Evansville Thursday," Evansville Courier & Press, November 11, 2022.

Kokomo Police seized fentanyl pills: "Kokomo police arrest 55 during 'Operation Cracked Ice' drug investigation," WTHR, November 10, 2022.

Elkhart men found with fentanyl pills, charged: Matt Gotsch, "Two Elkhart men arrested in large fentanyl bust," WNDU, November 7, 2022.

#### October 2022

Evansville teen charged in fentanyl pill case linked to death: Houston Harwood, "Evansville teen accused of causing multiple fentanyl overdoses," Evansville Courier & Post, October 13, 2022.

### September 2022

Fentanyl pills seized in Henderson: Amy Adams, "Teen arrested after drugs found in hotel room," WIKY, September 12, 2022.

July 2022

Two Evansville men charged in fentanyl pills case: "Two Evansville men indicted for trafficking fentanyl and allegedly manufacturing fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills using a pill press," U.S. Department of Justice, July 6, 2022.

