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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Michigan, July 2022 - January 2023

Recent counterfeit medicine news out of Michigan is deceptive. Law enforcement seized fentanyl pills in Escanaba and St. Clair County since July, and a pair of Birmingham parents sued a social media platform for facilitating the sale of a fentanyl pill that killed their 19-year-old son. It is more common, however, to read about Michigan residents implicated in the seizure and distribution of fentanyl pills in states like Indiana, Montana, North Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Michigan from places other than street corners or social media apps. In October, two men were indicted for allegedly illegally importing medicine from India. At the time of their arrest, police seized over 50,000 controlled substances and non-narcotic pills from locations in Ottawa County. Medical professionals have also purchased medicine from unlicensed sources. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 77 doctors and medical practices across Michigan warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox.

Recent Incidents

January 2023

Macomb Township resident arrested with fentanyl pills: Sarah Powers, "[Traffic stop in St. Clair County leads to fentanyl bust](#)," *CBS Detroit*, January 5, 2023.

December 2022

Traffic stops led to seizure of fentanyl pills in Escanaba: Nicole Walton, "[Escanaba traffic stop results in drug bust](#)," *WNMU FM*, December 21, 2022.

November 2022

Detroit man arrested in Bismarck, ND with fentanyl pills: Erika Craven, "[Police say K9 found \\$50,000 worth of fentanyl in Bismarck bust](#)," *KFYR TV*, November 25, 2022.

Scan the QR code or go to safedr ug/MI-page for more information on counterfeit incidents in Michigan.



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October 2022

Birmingham family sued social media company over deadly fentanyl pill: Steve Neavling, "[Birmingham family sues Snapchat after son died from fentanyl-laced pill he bought on app](#)," *Detroit Metro Times*, October 14, 2022.

Fruitport and Grand Haven men charged with importing illegal medications: Keely Lovern, "[Nearly 50k pills from India seized in Ottawa County: 2 charged](#)," *12 ON YOUR SIDE*, October 12, 2022.

Public warned about surge in counterfeit pills containing fentanyl: John Tunison, "[Surge in fentanyl-laced pills plagues Michigan and nation as DEA looks to curb trend](#)," *MLive*, October 18, 2022.

September 2022

Tennessee police arrested a Michigan man found with fentanyl pills: Paige Hill, "[Heroin, fentanyl seized from van after traffic stop on I-75, police say](#)," *WVLT*, September 30, 2022.

August 2022

Michigan resident sentenced in fentanyl pills case: "[Detroit man sentenced to prison for fentanyl crime](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of West Virginia, August 24, 2022.

Detroit man admitted to trafficking fentanyl pills: "[Michigan man admits trafficking fentanyl on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Montana, August 23, 2022.

Woman who ferried over 20,000 fentanyl pills from Detroit to Indiana sentenced: Jeff Wiehe, "[Court docs: Woman with \\$500,000 worth of fentanyl sentenced to nearly 5 years in prison](#)," *WANE*, August 4, 2022.

July 2022

Lincoln Park resident found with fentanyl pills in North Dakota: Erika Craven, "[Burleigh County law enforcement say they found more than 2,500 fentanyl pills in search of Lyft passenger](#)," *KFYR TV*, July 28, 2022.

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