

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES®
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Minnesota, July - December 2022

Fake pills containing fentanyl have monopolized the news coming out of Minnesota since mid-2022. Police in Bloomington seized over 108,000 pills from a man staying at a hotel in September. Raids in multiple locations in the Twin Cities in December led to the seizure of over 17,000 pills. Charges were filed in July and December, respectfully, in connection to the fentanyl pill deaths of a 15-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy. In October, a Montana man pleaded guilty in a drug trafficking case that began with a traffic stop in Minnesota that led to the seizure of thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl and one thousand counterfeit Adderall pills made with methamphetamine.

Fentanyl may be in the spotlight today, but it is important to remember that Minnesotans have also been exposed to counterfeit medicine by their doctors. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent warning letters to 21 doctors and medical practices across Minnesota, warning them to stop purchasing cancer medicine and Botox from known black market wholesalers.

Recent Incidents

December 2022:

Fentanyl pill seized in St. Cloud: Abdulla Gaafarekhalifa, "[Fentanyl pill related drug arrest occurred on New Year's weekend](#)," *St. Cloud Times*, January 3, 2023.

Fentanyl pills seized Eden Valley: Jeniffer Lewerenz, "[Eden Valley traffic stop allegedly yields loaded handgun and fentanyl](#)," *KNSI Radio*, December 23, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized: Paul Walsh, "[Large amount of fentanyl pills seized in Twin Cities](#)," *Star Tribune*, December 23, 2022.

November 2022:

Fentanyl pills seized Minneapolis: "[Search warrant leads to recovery of 10k fentanyl pills, illegal firearms in Minneapolis](#)," *Fox 9*, November 20, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer charged: Josh Skluzacek, "[Richfield man charged with murder in fentanyl-related death](#)," *KSTP*, November 14, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in St. Cloud: Jeniffer Lewerenz, "[Violent offender task force bust leads to discovery of over 300 pressed fentanyl pills](#)," *KNSI Radio*, November 11, 2022.

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October 2022:

Fentanyl pill dealer sentenced: [“Minneapolis man sentenced to six years in prison for possessing fentanyl with intent to sell and possessing a machine gun,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, October 28, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer arrested: [“Overdose leads to alleged Mankato drug dealer’s arrest,”](#) *Southern Minnesota News*, October 27, 2022.

Guilty plea from fentanyl pill trafficker: [“Stevensville man admits drug trafficking, firearm, money laundering crimes after investigators seize thousands of fentanyl pills in traffic stop; find pill-making equipment, materials on property,”](#) U.S. Department of Justice, October 13, 2022.

September 2022:

Guilty plea from fentanyl pill dealer: Jake Judd, [“Man pleads guilty after package of Fentanyl pills headed to St. Cloud intercepted at MSP International,”](#) *KNSI Radio*, September 20, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized: [“‘Rainbow’ fentanyl pills recovered in Mankato bust,”](#) *KEYC News Now*, September 19, 2022.

August 2022:

Fentanyl pills seized in Bloomington: David Griswold, [“Man charged in one of the largest seizures of fentanyl pills in state history,”](#) *KARE 11*, September 29, 2022.

Fentanyl pill death: Josh Skluzacek, [“Minneapolis man charged in 7-year-old’s overdose death; rainbow fentanyl found in home,”](#) *KSTP*, November 14, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer charged: [“Mahtomedi man charged with murder in teen’s fentanyl-related death,”](#) *KSTP*, August 8, 2022.

Fentanyl pills seized in Olmsted County: Brandon Marshall, [“Traffic stop leads to seizure of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl,”](#) *ABC6 News*, August 5, 2022.

July 2022

Fentanyl pill dealers charged: [“Two from Bemidji charged with murder after overdose death,”](#) *Lakeland News*, July 25, 2022.

Fentanyl pill dealer charged: Tommy Wiita, [“Teen charged with murder in overdosed death of 15-year-old West St. Paul girl,”](#) *Bring Me the News*, July 22, 2022.

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