

 *The Partnership for*
SAFEMEDICINES[®]
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Missouri, July 2022 - January 2023

Articles about fake pills made with fentanyl have dominated the counterfeit medicine news out of Missouri since mid-2022. Oak Grove saw four high school-aged students poisoned by fentanyl pills, one of whom died. Both the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the DEA St. Louis Field Division reported seizing record amounts of fentanyl pills. Additional cases linked to fentanyl pill deaths were reported in Ozark, Belton, and Atchison County.

Dangerous fake medicine has found its way into Missouri 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 39 doctors and medical practices across Missouri warning them to stop buying medicine from known black market wholesalers. These letters were in reference to cancer medications and Botox. More recently, a man running a medical spa in Kansas City pleaded guilty to ordering illegitimate Botox and a cosmetic injectable from Alibaba, and at least ten of his patients were hurt by these injections. Also, a doctor was sentenced after injecting patients for nearly a decade with a non-FDA-approved arthritis drug.

Recent Incidents

January 2023

Rock Port man pleaded guilty to selling fentanyl pills that killed one: "[Rock Port man pleads guilty to distributing fentanyl that caused fatal overdose](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, January 30, 2023.

Kansas City man indicted for role in three fentanyl pill deaths in Belton: "[KC man connected to three fentanyl deaths charged with fentanyl trafficking, illegal firearms](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, January 23, 2023.

December 2022

Ozark teen charged with murder for September fentanyl pill death: Chris Six, "[Ozark, Mo. teenager charged with murder after girl found dead with fentanyl in her system](#)," KY3, December 16, 2022.

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



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November 2022

DEA reported that fentanyl seizures were up by 41% over 2021: “[DEA St. Louis Division breaks fentanyl seizure record](#),” Drug Enforcement Administration, November 7, 2022.

October 2022

Police reported multiple fentanyl pill seizures and increased overdoses: “[KCPD warns of spike in suspected fentanyl overdoses](#),” Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, October 19, 2022.

September 2022

Three high school students in Oak Grove overdosed: Sean McDowell, “[Oak Grove parents worried after high school students overdose on fentanyl](#),” *Fox4 KC*, September 19, 2022.

August 2022

Missouri doctor sentenced for injecting patients with misbranded drug: “[Missouri doctor sentenced to year in prison for healthcare fraud, he and wife ordered to repay \\$235,000](#),” U.S. Department of Justice, August 25, 2022.

July 2022

Med spa owner pleaded guilty to using illegal injectables on patients: “[KC medical spa owner pleads guilty to illegal treatments](#),” U.S. Department of Justice, July 27, 2022.

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