## The Partnership for SAFEMEDICINES® COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

## Oklahoma, July - December 2022

Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, which continue to harm individuals and communities throughout Oklahoma, have been prominent in recent news. In August, law enforcement filed charges against the parents of a six-year-old boy who was poisoned and killed after he ingested a fake pill containing fentanyl. In December, the <u>Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics</u> seized <u>10,000</u> fentanyl pills. Police arrested seven suspects in Tulsa for allegedly <u>manufacturing and</u> distributing tens of thousands of counterfeit Xanax pills in the Northern District of Oklahoma and elsewhere.

However, a fake pill containing fentanyl is not the only thing Sooners need to worry about. Counterfeit medicine can find its way to Sooners besides being sold on social media, shady websites, or on street corners. Between 2012 and 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sent letters to 36 doctors and medical practices throughout the state warning them to stop purchasing medications from known black market wholesalers. The drugs being sold included cancer treatments and Botox.

## **Recent Incidents**

December 2022

**Fentanyl pills seized:** "Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics seizes 10,000 fentanyl pills, 6 pounds of heroin amid investigation," *KOCO*, December 16, 2022.

**Fentanyl pill dealer sentenced:** Nolan Clay, "<u>Oklahoma drug dealer sent to prison after</u> <u>selling customer pills laced with fentanyl</u>," *The Oklahoman*, December 6, 2022.

**Fentanyl pill dealer from Sallisaw charged:** Brett Rains, "Oklahoma prosecutor files first-degree murder charge in deadly overdose," *4029TV*, December 6, 2022.

November 2022

**Fentanyl pills seized in Tulsa:** Savannah Sinclair, "<u>Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics seizes</u> more than four pounds of fentanyl pills," *KTUL*, November 19, 2022.

**Fentanyl pill dealer arrested in Tulsa:** Jennifer Maupin, "<u>Man arrested after over 340</u> grams of fentanyl is recovered, police say," *KTUL*, November 16, 2022.

**Lawton police seized fentanyl pills:** Alex Rosa-Figueroa and Mandy Cunningham, "LPD seizes over 500 fentanyl pills," *KSWO*, November 10, 2022.



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October 2022

**Multiple Sooners indicted for fentanyl pill trafficking:** "<u>10 members of a drug trafficking</u> <u>organization indicted</u>," U.S. Department of Justice, October 5, 2022.

September 2022

**Counterfeit Xanax ring busted:** "<u>Operation Hard Pressed results in charges against</u> <u>seven defendants for selling fentanyl, cocaine and fake Xanax pills</u>," U.S. Department of Justice, September 14, 2022.

**Fentanyl pills seized in Grove:** Sheila Stogsdill, "<u>Bail for Grove brothers tied to fentanyl</u> <u>drug bust reduced; tribal judge orders no contact with mother</u>," *Four States Homepage*, September 2, 2022.

August 2022

**Tulsa couple sentenced for manufacturing fentanyl pills:** "<u>Man and woman sentenced</u> to 10 years in federal prison for fentanyl distribution," U.S. Department of Justice, August 25, 2022.

**Charges filed in child's fentanyl pill death:** "Oklahoma couple charged with second-degree murder in child's fentanyl overdose death," U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, August 18, 2022.

**Fentanyl pills seized in Tulsa:** Savannah Sinclair, "<u>Stolen dealership car leads to 90</u> <u>fentanyl pills recovered, 3 suspects arrested</u>," *KTUL*, August 8, 2022.

July 2022

**Fentanyl pill dealer charged:** Sheila Stogsdill, "<u>Grove Woman Confesses to Selling</u> <u>Fentanyl Pills, Purchased 1,000 Pills Since March</u>," *Four States Homepage*, August 2, 2022.

