

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

Wisconsin, June 2022 – January 2023

Wisconsin's cities are struggling with the spread of counterfeit pills made with fentanyl. Drug deaths rose 6% between 2020 and 2021 and 2022's death toll is expected to be even greater. Among many small busts for fentanyl pill possession, state law enforcement has exposed larger conspiracies to manufacture and distribute the counterfeit pills. In December, a federal grand jury indicted 15 defendants on charges related to distributing kilogram-quantities of fentanyl and other drugs in Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago. In June, a man in La Crosse was charged with 20 felonies after a search of three properties uncovered fentanyl powder, a pill press, guns, and 300,000 counterfeit Xanax and Adderall pills.

In the past, the FDA warned 27 medical practices in Wisconsin for buying black market cancer treatments, counterfeit osteoporosis medications and Botox from unsafe sources (2012 –2016). In 2016, a Madison-based pharmacist received a two-year sentence for illegally importing medications from India to be sold to the U.S. customers of a Costa Rica-based fake online pharmacy.

Recent Incidents

January 2023:

Green Bay 15-year-old charged with providing fatal fentanyl pills: "[Preliminary hearing postponed for Green Bay teen charged in fatal fentanyl overdose](#)," *Fox 11 News*, January 17, 2023.

December 2022:

\$2 million counterfeit oxycodone operation charged: "[Fifteen defendants charged in a multi-state drug trafficking organization](#)," U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Wisconsin, December 15, 2022.

Fatalities increased in 2021, expected higher for 2022: "[Fentanyl cuts a bitter swath through Milwaukee](#)," *The New York Times*, December 12, 2022.

June 2022:

Pill press, guns, counterfeit pills, and fentanyl seized, La Crosse: "[Man charged with 20 felonies after police seize over \\$1 million in drugs](#)," *WEAU 13 News*, June 10, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to [safedr.ug/WI-page](https://safedr ug/WI-page) for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Wisconsin.

