



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

Counterfeit Pills Seized in Iowa

between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025



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Overview of Counterfeit Pills Seized in Iowa

Counterfeit pills manufactured to look visually identical to legitimate prescription pills like oxycodone, alprazolam, amphetamine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and phentermine, but often containing lethal doses of synthetic drugs, have become a major threat. Drugs in pill form can be easier to sell and use, and since they are primarily sold through social media and e-commerce platforms, they are easily accessible to younger populations and are responsible for an increasing number of overdose fatalities.

Illicit fentanyl is the dominant ingredient in these counterfeit pills, and methamphetamine, xylazine, nitazenes, and benzodiazepines are frequently identified. DEA laboratory analyses estimate that in fiscal year 2025 approximately 29% of counterfeit pills with fentanyl contained a deadly dose (approximately 2 mg) and the average counterfeit pill contained 1.58 mg of fentanyl based on samples analyzed, down from a high of 2.47 mg in fiscal year 2023. Counterfeit pills now represent nearly half (49%) of all illicit fentanyl seized by the DEA, up from just 10% in 2017.

This report provides data about the counterfeit pill types seized in Iowa between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025. (Pills seized within this time frame but not lab tested by December 31, 2025, are not counted.) Each pill type occupies its own page, and they are presented in order from those with the largest number seized within this time frame to those with the smallest number seized within this time frame.

The threshold for including a pill type in this report is that it must have been seized at least ten separate times nationwide and laboratory testing must have confirmed that at least 50% of the pills seized are counterfeit. Note that, in most states, counterfeit M|30 oxycodone pills are ranked number one and account for 85% of all pills submitted to DEA laboratories.

The data provided for each pill type includes the total number seized and analyzed by DEA laboratories during the time frame, the percentage that were determined to be counterfeit in laboratory testing, and the most identified licit and illicit ingredients.



M | 30

Note: The legitimate pharmaceutical version of the M | 30 pill contains 30 mg of Oxycodone

7,271 identical pills seized in Iowa 01/01/24 – 12/31/25

100% of these seized pills were determined to be counterfeit by DEA laboratories

They account for **78.35%** of all pills seized in Iowa 01/01/24 – 12/31/25

Drugs Identified in Pills

Drug	% Pills
Fentanyl	95.61%
Acetaminophen	82.29%
BTMPS	8.28%
Lidocaine	4.26%
Xylazine	2.60%
Dimethyl Sulfone	1.39%
p-Fluorofentanyl	0.11%
Carfentanil	0.04%

Drug Combinations Identified in Pills

Drug Combination	% Pills
Fentanyl; Acetaminophen	74.69%
Fentanyl	16.49%
Acetaminophen; BTMPS	2.63%
Fentanyl; Acetaminophen; BTMPS; Lidocaine	1.72%
Acetaminophen; BTMPS; Dimethyl Sulfone	1.39%
Fentanyl; Acetaminophen; BTMPS; Lidocaine; Xylazine	1.35%
Fentanyl; BTMPS; Lidocaine; Xylazine	1.20%
Acetaminophen	0.33%
Fentanyl; Acetaminophen; p-Fluorofentanyl	0.11%
Fentanyl; Acetaminophen; Xylazine	0.06%
Other	0.04%