

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for reaching out for front-line information on the fentanyl crisis.

I'm an agency with one full-time officer that serves a community of 758 in southwest Wisconsin. Our community has seen drug-related trouble increase dramatically in the last couple of years. In January of this year, a surviving overdose victim bought drugs from a house in our Village. He thought it was heroin. It tests negative for heroin. A January fatal overdose victim was at the same house in our Village the night before she died. We're waiting on toxicology. A man I believe was involved with the drug flow in both these cases spoke with me about what drugs he's using and selling. He kept talking about heroin. I told him time and again we test substances or paraphernalia that do NOT come back positive for heroin. He then admitted there's probably fentanyl in pretty much everything. It was interesting to hear him blame law enforcement, saying they seize so much heroin at the border that [drug suppliers] are forced to make fentanyl out of pharmaceuticals. I couldn't even chuckle at his misguided take on the SOURCE of the problem, because the problem is no laughing matter. Users and front-line workers are in danger daily of coming across a potentially fatal substance, even in tiny amounts, and there is no place immune, not even in small towns nearly as far as one can get from the Mexican border.

Again, thanks, and may God bless your efforts

Respectfully,

Philip Welch

Chief of Police

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