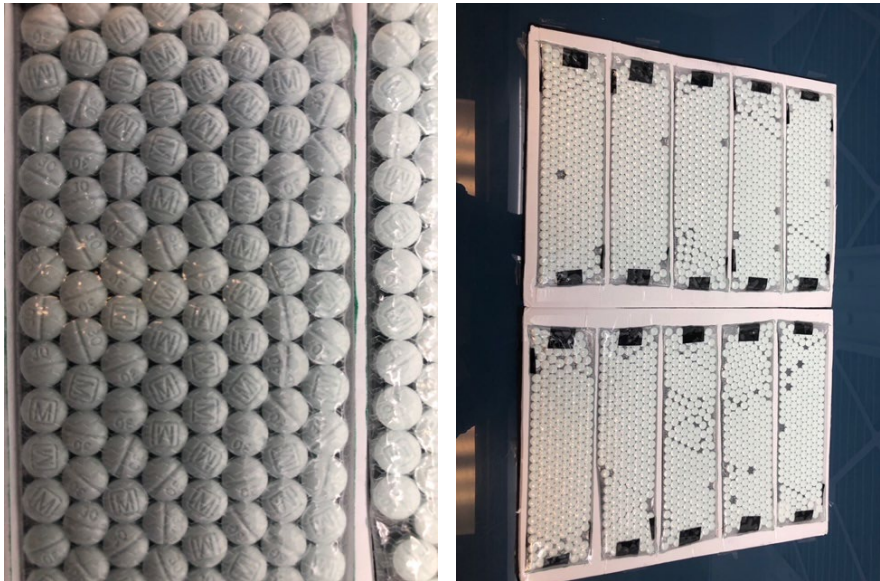


- I. In January of 2020, our county had four residents die of overdose in a four day period; two of which were confirmed Fentanyl related and two suspected of being a combination of Fentanyl and other substances. These deaths had a common thread; the existence of counterfeit Xanax pills. The victims ages ranged from 37 to 59 years of age.

Our investigation revealed Fentanyl was being shipped into the country from China and sent directly to pseudo post office boxes along the TN (Clarksville) and KY (Guthrie) border. Drug couriers would then pick up these packages and the Fentanyl would be pressed into counterfeit substances before being distributed in TN and KY. Note: see the attached photographs of Fentanyl laced pills which were seized as part of this investigation; these were how they were packaged for shipment from China to the US.



- II. In March 24, 2020, we learned Kentucky ranked No. 1 for fentanyl — and top 10 for cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin positivity rates in a new study at that time:

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/nation-world/national/article240521481.html>

- III. At the close of 2021, our small county had added another 6 overdose citizen deaths, directly related to Fentanyl, to the list of victims. Unfortunately, we fear this number is actually much higher but due to a toxicology (testing) policy change within the state Medical Examiner's Office, we may not know the true extent of the relation now, as decedents may not always be tested for toxicology upon their death as has been the practice in the past.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue facing our Commonwealth and the law enforcement community.

Best regards,

# **Brent White**

Sheriff Brent White  
Lyon County Sheriff's Office  
P.O. Box 126  
500 West Dale Avenue, Suite 100  
Eddyville, Kentucky 42038  
(270) 388-2311 Office  
(270) 388-2397 Facsimile

[www.lyonsheriff.com](http://www.lyonsheriff.com)

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