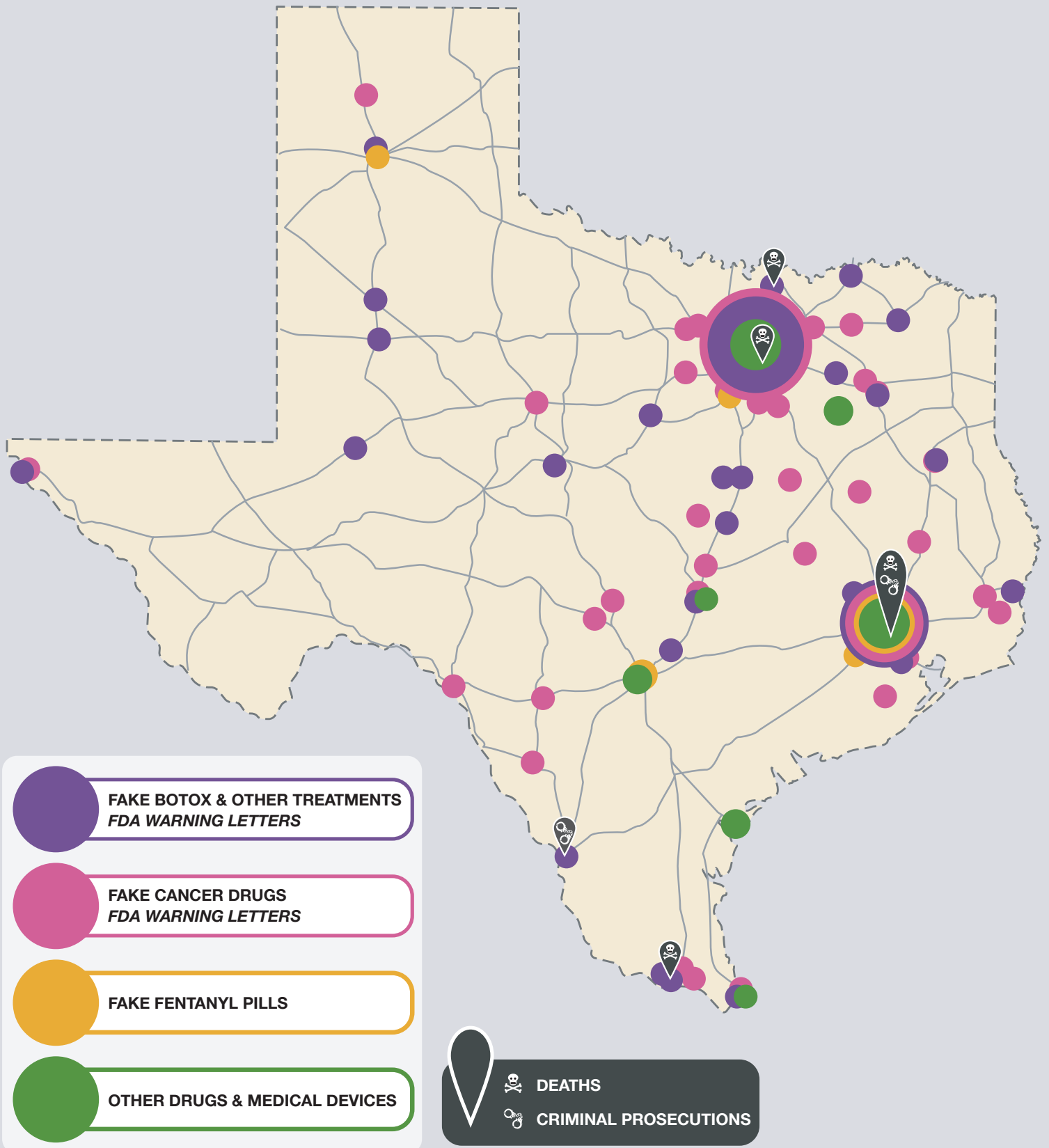


# THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN TEXAS

Counterfeit pills, intravenous and injectable medications have injured and even killed Texas patients.





## The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Texas

Counterfeit drug smugglers lined their own pockets by infiltrating the prescription drug supply and illicit opioid market to the detriment of Texas's residents.

Unregulated prescription drugs—counterfeit Avastin and fake Botox, among others—have threatened Texas. Between 2012 and 2016, 243 different medical practices in Texas were among more than 3,000 nationwide that were implicated in various black-market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. **One doctor in Laredo purchased more than \$900,000 worth of fake cancer medicine to use on his patients in less than two years.** Families of cancer patients who died after being treated with counterfeit Avastin in 2011 will never be sure whether their loved one's lives were cut short by fake medicines smuggled into the country by profiteers.

Since 2015, the country has seen a terrible upsurge in counterfeit prescription pills laced with fentanyl or its deadlier variants. Even a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes of ingesting it. In October 2019, the Houston Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported seizing over 20,000 counterfeit pills containing fentanyl over a three-month period. Authorities broke up a major counterfeit pill operation in San Antonio and Houston that sold counterfeit oxycodone laced with fentanyl and fake Adderall made with methamphetamine locally and online. Newspapers have reported the deaths of two people—a Sour Lake resident attending Rice University in Houston and a resident of Sherman. Many more Texas residents have likely died of fentanyl poisoning after encountering these pills because not all deaths are investigated for counterfeit drugs, and not all families publicly share their losses. Others may not know their child died because the Xanax they took contained fentanyl instead of alprazolam.

**The only way to protect Americans from these dangers is to protect and strengthen the closed U.S. supply chain, which holds drug manufacturers accountable for safety regulations.**

*To see a list of counterfeit drug incidents in Texas between 2010 and 2017, please consult our [2018 Infosheet](#).*

### FOOTNOTES

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## COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

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## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

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Abilene, Allen, Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Bridgeport, Brownsville, Bryan, Burlson, Carrizo Springs, Carrollton, Corpus Christi, Crockett, Dallas, Decatur, Del Rio, Dumas, Edinburg, El Paso, Ennis, Fort Worth, Fredericksburg, Friendswood, Frisco, Georgetown, Grand Prairie, Greenville, Groesbeck, Houston, Hurst, Irving, Katy, Kerrville, Killeen, Kingwood, Lake Jackson, Lewisville, Livingston, Longview, McAllen, McKinney, Mesquite, Midland, Nacogdoches, Pearland, Plano, Port Arthur, Richardson, Rowlett, San Antonio, Sugar Land, Sulphur Springs, The Woodlands, Tyler, Waxahachie, Weatherford, Weslaco

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