

Arizona is drowning in fake medicine.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS ARE EXACTING A HEAVY TOLL ON THE STATE.

COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE TYPE

FAKE OPIOIDS, XANAX, AND OTHER MEDICINES WITH FENTANYL

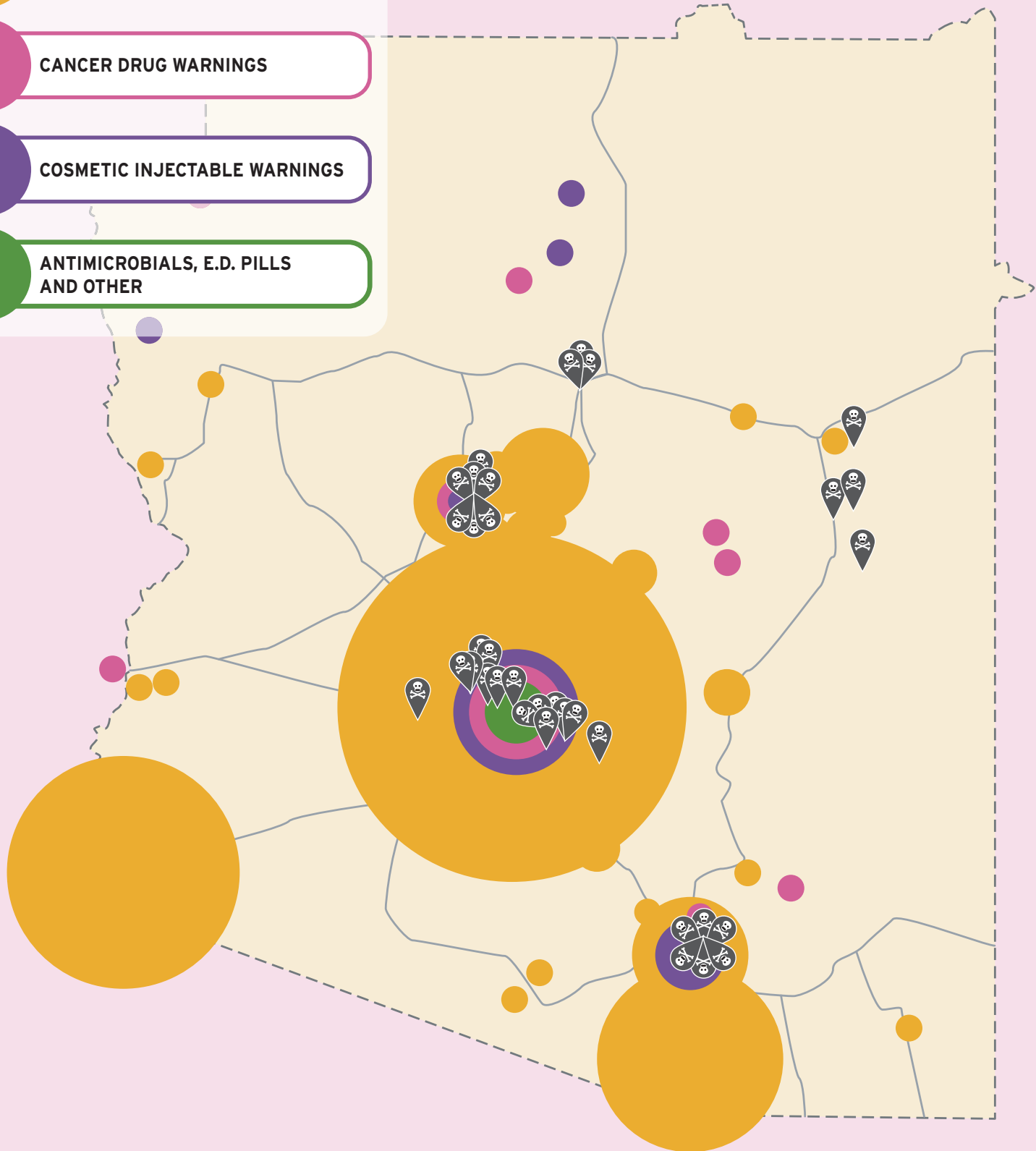
CANCER DRUG WARNINGS

COSMETIC INJECTABLE WARNINGS

ANTIMICROBIALS, E.D. PILLS AND OTHER



REPORTED FENTANYL PILL DEATHS





ARIZONA IS DROWNING IN FAKE MEDICINE.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS ARE EXACTING A HEAVY TOLL ON THE STATE.

When the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a public safety alert about counterfeit pills made with fentanyl and other dangerous ingredients in October 2021, Arizona must have been foremost in their mind. **The agency's Phoenix Field Division seized three million pills in August 2021 alone**—half of what they had seized in all of 2020. **That same month, fentanyl overdoses became the leading cause of death of Pima County residents 19 and younger—many of them from counterfeit pills.** Since 2015, when counterfeit Xanax and opioid painkillers emerged as a threat in many parts of the U.S., the media has reported counterfeit pill deaths in 15 Arizona cities, large and small. As early as March 2017, at least 32 people in Maricopa County had already died of fentanyl poisoning because of the pills.

In addition to these tremendous losses, unregulated prescription drugs—counterfeit Avastin, fake Botox, and black-market osteoporosis drugs, among others, have made their way into Arizona's doctors' offices. **Between 2012 and 2016, 107 different medical practices in Arizona were among more than 3,000 nationwide that were implicated in various black-market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies.**

Between 2014 and 2016, authorities shut down 23 yerberias in Phoenix, Chandler, and Mesa that were selling counterfeit medicine which contained chemicals such as arsenic, boric acid and industrial solvents. Drugs purchased at some yerberias have caused kidney failure, developmental defects, and death.

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 Arizona between 2010 and 2018, please consult our [2018 Infosheet](#).

FOOTNOTES

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4. See footnotes for the map, above.
5. "32 Deaths in Metro Phoenix Attributed to Fake Oxy Pills," *Phoenix 3TV/CBS 5*, March 21, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2YzjhzG> (cached at the Internet archive).
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