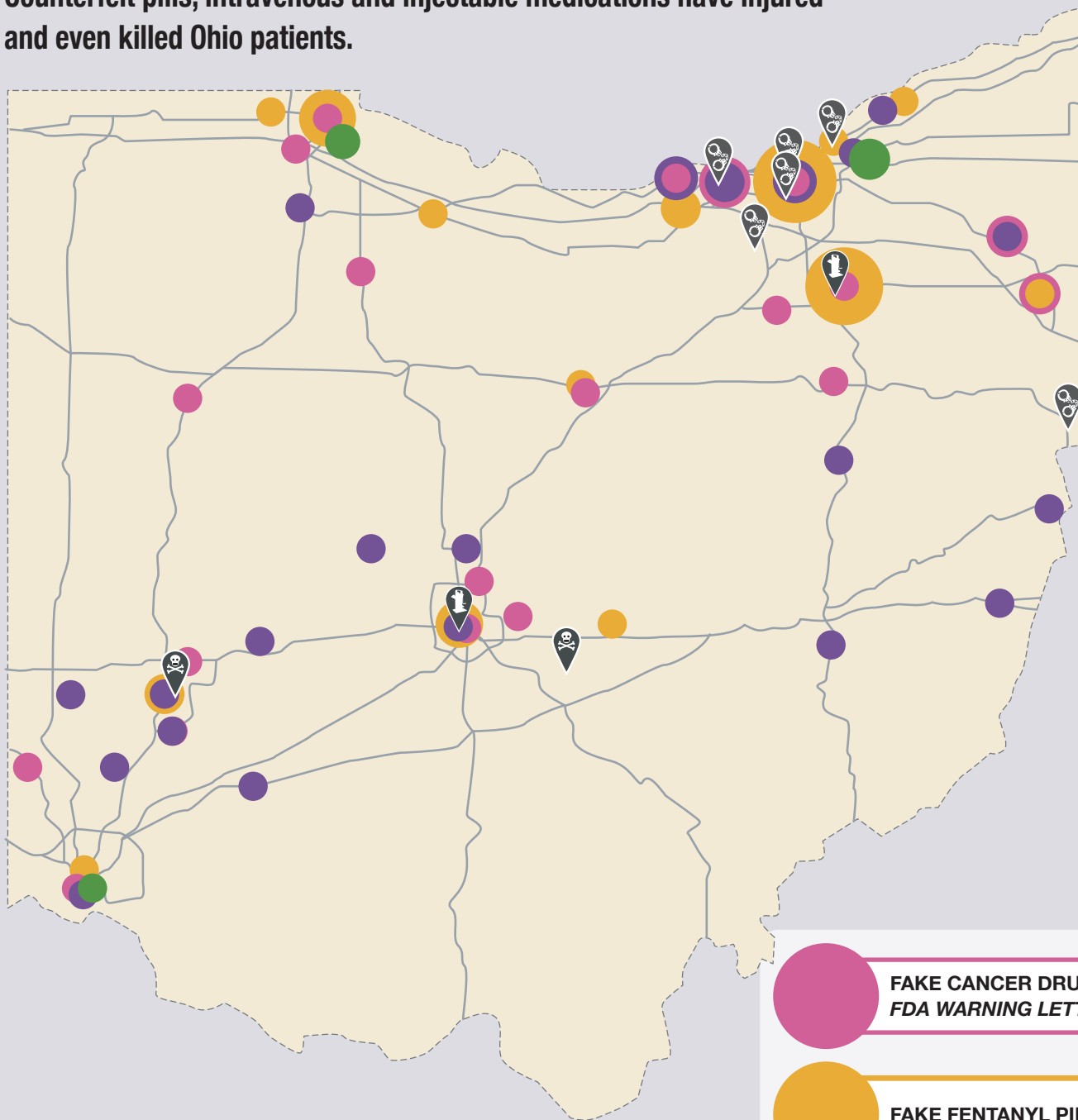


THE DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUG TRADE THRIVES IN OHIO

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



FAKE CANCER DRUGS
FDA WARNING LETTERS

FAKE FENTANYL PILLS

FAKE BOTOX & OTHER TREATMENTS
FDA WARNING LETTERS

OTHER DRUGS & MEDICAL DEVICES

DEATHS
CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS
PILL PRESS SEIZURES



The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Ohio

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

Unregulated prescription drugs—counterfeit Avastin, Botox and rheumatology medicine, among others—have threatened Ohio. Between 2012 and 2016, 63 different medical practices in Ohio were among more than 3,000 nationwide that were implicated in various black-market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies.¹ In 2013, seven different Ohio oncologists with offices in Brunswick, Cleveland, Euclid, Liverpool, Parma, and Westlake pleaded guilty to purchasing and using black-market oncology drugs on their patients.²

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 January 2020, a federal grand jury in Cincinnati indicted five members of a drug conspiracy that shipped fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Ohio and throughout the country.³ Authorities broke up other major counterfeit pill operations in Cleveland, Elyria, and Toledo.⁴ Newspapers have reported the deaths of two people in Baltimore and Riverside.⁵ Many more Ohio 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 Ohio between 2008 and 2018, please consult our [2018 Infosheet](#).

FOOTNOTES

1. "FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated July 3, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>; "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors Who May Have Purchased Counterfeit or Unapproved Prescription Drugs, 2012–2014," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, last updated July 2, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.
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3. "5 Charged in \$2.8 Million Dark Web Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering Conspiracy," U.S. Department of Justice, January 15, 2020, <http://bit.ly/2tTifjM>.
4. "Ten People Indicted for Their Roles in a Conspiracy to Traffic Fentanyl Stamped into Pills, Heroin, Cocaine and Other Drugs from Mexico to Cleveland," U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, September 13, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2HhVfR>; Eric Heisig, "Elyria Drug Ring Sold Fentanyl Made to Look Like Percocet Pills, Feds Say," *The Plain Dealer*, June 27, 2018, <http://bit.ly/2SiV23E>; "Eight People Indicted for Their Roles in a Conspiracy to Distribute Large Amounts of Heroin, Cocaine and Fentanyl Pills in Northwest Ohio," U.S. Department of Justice, October 4, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2SD82jD>.
5. See citation list that accompanies the map, above.



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BLACK MARKET CANCER MEDICATION WARNINGS

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Austintown, Avon Lake, Bedford, Blacklick, Centerville, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cortland, Dayton, Fostoria, Huber Heights, Lima, Lorain, Mansfield, Massillon, Maumee, North Olmsted, Oxford, Tallmadge, Toledo, Wadsworth, Warren, Westerville, Westlake, Youngstown

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS



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COUNTERFEIT BOTOX WARNINGS

“FDA Issues Letters to Doctors...,” <http://bit.ly/2DqFh4c>.

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Amherst, Bowling Green, Centerville, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Dover, Independence, Lewis Center, Lorain, Marietta, Martins Ferry, Marysville, Mayfield Village, Mentor, Middletown, North Olmsted, Parma Heights, Springfield, Steubenville, Warren, West Alexandria, Wilmington

COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION PILLS AND DEVICES

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