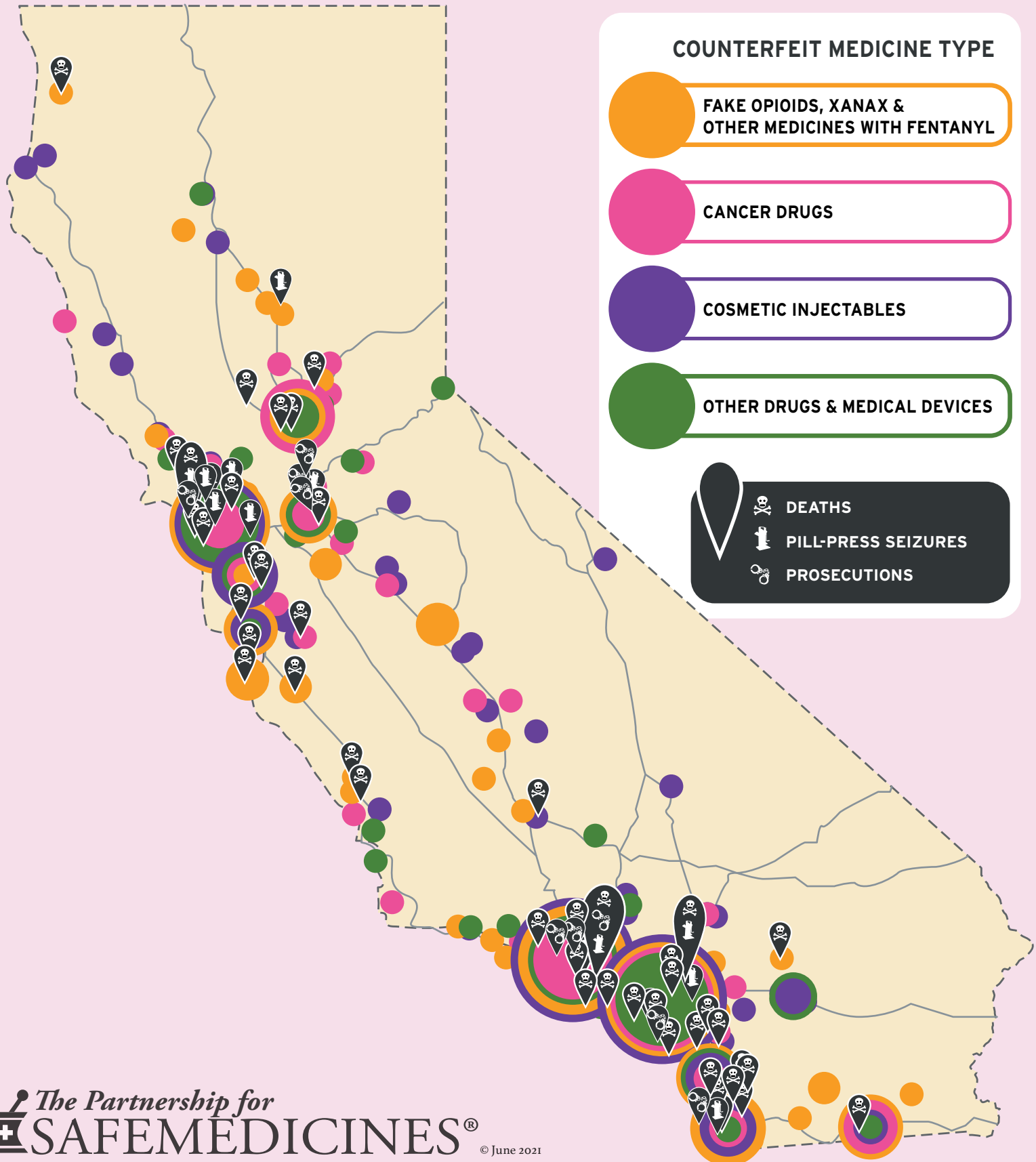


# California's Medicine Safety Comes with a Fight

FAKE PILLS, BLACK MARKET INJECTABLES AND COUNTERFEIT MEDICAL DEVICES PLAGUE THE STATE.





## CALIFORNIA IS AN IRRESISTIBLE DRAW FOR DRUG COUNTERFEITERS

**Fake drug smugglers line their pockets by infiltrating the illicit opioid market, the prescription drug supply, and traditional markets to the detriment of Californians.**

In just the first twenty days of May 2021, U.S. Attorneys in California announced 12 drug trafficking cases that involved 13 fentanyl deaths, eight of which were from counterfeit pills.<sup>1</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents stopped people carrying fentanyl pills at Salton Sea and Pine Valley.<sup>2</sup> Law enforcement seized pills in Bakersfield, Murrieta, and Lompoc, and reported arresting a Suisun man who allegedly sold fake Percocet that killed a 20-year-old in Vacaville in April.<sup>3</sup>

That breakneck pace has been typical. **California has seen fentanyl pill deaths in 29 towns and cities since 2019, with victims as young as 14 dying** after taking prescription pills they thought were real. Law enforcement has seized these pills in 78 places across the state since 2015, and the deaths that accompany them were reported in 46 of them. However, California isn't just a destination for counterfeit pills: **Investigators have shut down pill press operations making counterfeit opioids, fake Xanax or "Adderall" made of meth** in Baldwin Park, the City of Industry, Concord, Newport Beach, Oakland, Oroville, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, Stockton, Vallejo, and Walnut Creek.

**Unregulated prescription drugs—counterfeit Avastin, fake Botox, and black-market osteoporosis drugs, among others—have made their way into medical settings.** Between 2012 and 2016, the FDA warned 516 Californian medical practices to stop buying counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies from unlicensed foreign sellers. Since then, two oncologists working in the San Fernando Valley admitted purchasing **more than a million dollars in black market cancer treatments** and three physicians paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle federal fraud allegations related to buying and treating patients with these drugs.<sup>4</sup>

Since 2014, authorities in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties have pursued multiple investigations into illegally imported and counterfeit medicines (some made of plastic) sold in small markets, parks and on the street.<sup>5</sup>

**The only way to protect Californians from these dangers is to protect and strengthen the closed U.S. supply chain and make it even more difficult to sell fake medicine.**

*To see a list of counterfeit drug incidents in California between 2012 and 2018, please consult our [2018 Infosheet](#).*

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## FAKE BOTOX PROSECUTIONS

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## BLACK MARKET CANCER MEDICATION WARNINGS

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Alhambra, Alta Loma, Arcadia, Arleta, Auburn, Bell, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Camarillo, Carmichael, Chino Hills, Chula Vista, City of Industry, Corona, Costa Mesa, Covina, Dana Point, El Cajon, El Centro, Elk Grove, Encinitas, Fort Bragg, Fountain Valley, Fremont, Fullerton, Glendale, Granada Hills, Grass Valley, Hacienda Heights, Hanford, Hollister, Huntington Park, Irvine, Jackson, La Jolla, Lincoln, Lodi, Lompoc, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Los Gatos, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Manteca, Merced, Mirage, Mission Viejo, Modesto, Montebello, Monterey, Monterey Park, Morgan Hill, Morro Bay, Murrieta, Napa, Newport Beach, Northridge, Oakland, Oceanside, Orange, Oxnard, Pacific Nuys, Victorville, Visalia, Walnut Creek, West Covina, West Hills, Westlake Village, Whittier, Windsor, Yuba City

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### PROLIA AND ACLASTA

**BEVERLY HILLS, NEWBURY PARK, NEWPORT BEACH, VISTA, WHITTIER:** "Historical Information: FDA Issues Letters to Doctors..." <http://bit.ly/2rkvR5s>.

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### BLACK MARKET INJECTABLES

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\* Not a comprehensive list.

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