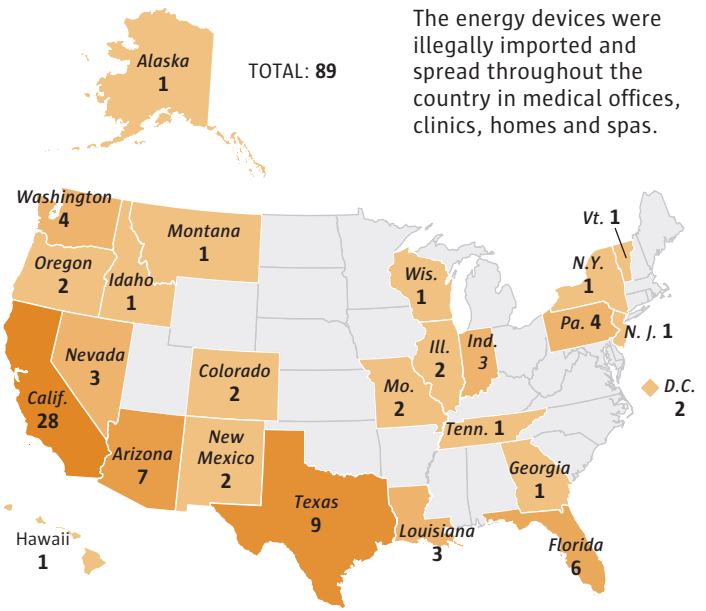
The PAP-IMI in the U.S.



The trail of a dangerous medical device

1995 **NOVEMBER:** The FDA denies a request to sell and market the PAP-IMI.

1999 **OCTOBER:** Panos Pappas' company starts illegally importing the PAP-IMI into the U.S., calling them seed germinators.

2001 **MAY:** PAP-IMI receives approval from an institutional review board, BioMed IRB, to conduct a clinical study on pain.

2002 **JUNE:** BioMed IRB terminates the PAP-IMI study because operators failed to properly report two deaths in Florida. The device is prohibited from use.

AUGUST: FDA inspects a Los Angeles clinic and discovers an infant with cancer being treated by the PAP-IMI. The agency also finds practitioners using the PAP-IMI across the country.

SEPTEMBER: An FDA investigator warns about problems with the PAP-IMI. A new institutional review board, TABS, approves another study for the device.

2003 **MARCH:** A 68-year-old woman with heart disease dies on the treatment table after a PAP-IMI session at the Los Angeles clinic.

2005 **JUNE:** FDA terminates the second PAP-IMI study, citing potential risks.

2007 **TODAY:** PAP-IMI operators continue to offer treatments.

Sources: Food and Drug Administration, California Department of Health Services, Seattle Times reporting

THE SEATTLE TIMES