

DEA settles Walgreens painkiller case for \$80M

11 June 2013, by Curt Anderson

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has reached an \$80 million civil settlement with the Walgreens pharmacy chain over violations of rules governing the distribution of powerful prescription painkillers.

DEA officials said Tuesday that Walgreens committed numerous record-keeping and dispensing violations of the Controlled Substances Act. That allowed drugs such as oxycodone to be improperly sold to abusers and for [illegal sales](#) on the black market.

Walgreens is the nation's largest [pharmacy chain](#) with more than 8,000 stores. A spokesman at the Deerfield, Ill.-based company said a statement would be issued later.

Florida has been a major East Coast source of highly addictive painkillers. An ongoing crackdown in recent years including numerous arrests has reduced the number of illegal "pill mills" operating in the state.

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