



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ★ DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

Diversion News: February 2025

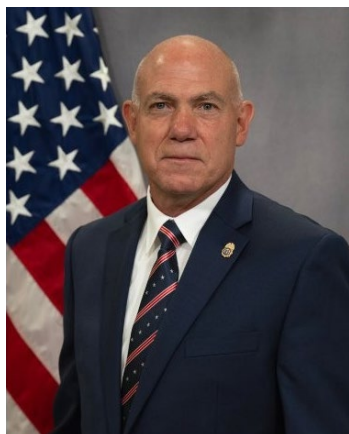
Leader of Pharmacy Burglary Ring Sentenced

Last month, Keith Brown was sentenced to more than 17 years in federal prison for his lead role in a Houston-based drug trafficking organization responsible for dozens of pharmacy burglaries and stolen controlled substances worth millions of dollars. He was charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

As part of [Operation Low Crawl](#), DEA so far has tied 42 alleged criminals to burglaries across 31 states, making it the largest pharmacy burglary operation in agency history.

The quantity of Schedule II controlled substances stolen from pharmacies and distributed by Brown and his co-conspirators has a street value of more than \$12 million. This includes oxycodone, hydrocodone, Adderall, and others.

Trial for the remaining defendants is scheduled for April 7, 2025. Read more about the [sentencing](#).



DEA Announces New Acting Administrator

On Jan. 20, 2025, the Trump Administration announced the appointment of career Special Agent Derek S. Maltz as Acting Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Maltz replaces Anne Milgram who departed the previous week.

Maltz served 28 years at DEA before retiring in 2014. He also proudly served as the Chief of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the country's oldest and largest drug task force. Most recently Maltz worked in the private sector.

Read more about [the appointment of Acting Administrator Maltz](#).

Justice Department Sues Stockton-based Nurse Practitioner to Stop Her Sale of Illegal Opioid Prescriptions

A civil complaint filed against California nurse practitioner Joan Rubinger alleges that the medical practitioner ran a long-running nationwide scheme to sell illegal opioids for cash.

Court documents show that Rubinger traveled from city to city, providing a range of services from intravenous flushes to prescriptions for controlled substances.

According to the complaint, Rubinger sold opioid prescriptions to her customers for cash and invited them to select their own prescriptions from a menu of highly addictive drugs intended to treat a wide variety of medical conditions. These drugs included oxycodone, Percocet, Xanax, and Adderall, some of which can be dangerous in combination.



Read more about the [DEA investigation](#).

Proposed Rescheduling of Marijuana Hearing Postponed

The hearing scheduled to begin on Jan. 21, 2025, regarding the proposed rescheduling of marijuana has been postponed pending resolution of an appeal filed by a party in the proceedings. The order is available on [DEA.gov](#).

DEA Announces the 2025 Supply Chain Conference

The Diversion Control Division is hosting the 3rd Annual Supply Chain Conference from April 1-3, 2025, in Orlando, Florida.

The conference provides a venue for representatives from the supply chain industry, their affiliated associations, and DEA to engage in discussions concerning existing federal regulations, regulatory changes, agency policies, and the development of initiatives to reduce diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances while ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply for a legitimate medical need.

For more information on upcoming events, visit Diversion Control Division's website: [Diversion Control Division | Meetings & Events](#)

Diversion Control Division Enforcement

DEA's Diversion Control Division strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources. When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.



Canadian Dark Web Vendor Sentenced for Importing Millions of Counterfeit Xanax Pills into the United States

Jan. 23, 2025

Leader of Pharmacy Burglary Ring Across Multiple States Sentenced to More Than 17 Years in Federal Prison

Jan. 16, 2025

Justice Department Sues Stockton-based Nurse Practitioner to Stop Her Sale of Illegal Opioid Prescriptions

Jan. 14, 2025



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