



Pharmacy Security Public Safety Alert

Irvin Reaves
Group Supervisor
Little Rock District Office

May 2, 2024



Diversion Control Division

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public or DEA in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

I have no financial relationships to disclose.





COPYRIGHT DISCLAIMER

Diversion Control Division

This presentation is for educational purposes. Materials, images, or sounds authored or created by parties other than DEA may be subject to copyright and are used herein in accordance with the fair use provision of Title 17 United States Code Section 107. DEA's use of these materials does not authorize persons outside of DEA to further distribute or use copyrighted materials.





Prevention and Detection of Controlled Substance Diversion What can a pharmacy or pharmacist do??





The Growing Problem

- Many states have seen a string of break-ins over the last few years.
- Most of this is focused on smaller, independent pharmacies often in small towns or rural areas.
- There appear to be organized groups that utilize social media and tools such as Google map street view to explore possible targets and surrounding security concerns for this purpose.





Pharmacy Thefts Reported

- 2023 Total Pharmacy Thefts:
 - 881 Total Events
 - 762 Burglaries
 - 119 Robberies
- 2023 DU Quantity Loss for All Pharmacies:
 - 3,016,187 due to Burglaries
 - 345,837 due to Robberies
- 2023 Dollar Value Losses for Pharmacies: (Dollar amounts are reported in AWP, Average Wholesale Price, cost to registrant, which reflects the actual loss to the registrant.)
 - \$8,487,131 Burglaries
 - \$2,041,583 Robberies





Possible Issues

Many smaller pharmacies meet minimum security criteria which is simply a secured space. They:

- do not have alarm systems
 - do not have motion detection
 - do not have cameras
-
- They often do have pictures on social media or websites that show pharmacy layout and possible security measures clearly.





Loss Prevention Tools

- Visible camera systems
 - Include behind counter surveillance so you can see what is going on in the prescription area
- Alarm systems
 - Silent alarm is a useful option
 - Motion detection down to the floor especially behind counters and in bays so that signal isn't being blocked
- Safe/Locked Cabinets
 - Sensors inside the safe for vibration or opening





Working Together

- Keep a record of drug losses reported to the DEA to include ATTEMPTED BREAK-INS as well.
- Share information with DEA Diversion Group for your area.
- Look for patterns
 - - Several break-ins in a weekend have been seen to involve a single group hitting multiple stores
 - - Tools used to break in?
 - Glass breaker, specific crowbars...





Consequences

- State/Local
 - Arkansas has an enhanced penalty for commercial burglary of a pharmacy

“an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment of five (5) years.”
- Federal
 - DEA needs help in sharing this security message throughout the country and help in identifying suspected patterns and groups





Street Values

Alprazolam

\$2.00 to \$6.00+

Hydrocodone /Oxycodone

\$1.00 /mg

Promethazine with Codeine Syrup

1 pint - \$2000+

\$100+ per line on the bottle





Interesting Facts

- “Unbreakable Glass”
- **Drive Through Window** glass is an easy target
 - Glass break sensor or motion detection?
- Do I have to fill out the 106 form?
 - I got a police report already
 - FILL IT OUT even if there is not a loss
- Burglary can happen fast
 - Alarm response time?
 - 43 Seconds – smash and grab 4 bottles of prometh/codeine

