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## 'Huge' stash of OxyContin found in man's underwear

By [Jay Patrick](#)

World staff writer

WENATCHEE — A man who claims he's a gang member from Los Angeles faces a felony drug charge after he was allegedly caught with prescription pain killers stuffed in his trousers.

A Washington State Patrol trooper reported finding 400 OxyContin tablets worth up to \$40,000 in the underwear of 29-year-old Harrison Thomas of Buena Park after pulling over the car he was riding in Aug. 26.

The trooper made the traffic stop five miles west of Leavenworth on Highway 2. Another passenger in the car, 39-year-old Carlos Thomas of Compton, Calif., also was arrested and has been charged by the Chelan County Prosecutor's Office with possession of OxyContin with the intent to deal.

That is the same charge leveled against Harrison Thomas, who told a State Patrol trooper he is a "Crip from L.A." The Crips are a well-known gang that has roots in Southern California and affiliates nationwide. The relationship between Harrison Thomas and Carlos Thomas is not stated in the report.

Trooper B.C. Moore wrote in his probable cause statement that he pulled over the vehicle for speeding.

At one point, he suspected the two men were hatching a plan to jump him while he questioned the 18-year-old woman who had been driving the car. Harrison Thomas and Carlos Thomas remained in the vehicle after the woman got out to speak with Moore, according to Moore's statement. In a pocket of Carlos Thomas' pants, the trooper said he found \$3,000 in small bills.

Harrison Thomas had \$623 in his pants, according to the trooper's statement, as well as 400 pills in a plastic bag.

The woman told troopers she had just met the two men, who had been in Wenatchee to "party." She was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs.

Chelan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Bruce Long, head of the Columbia River Drug Task Force, called the 400-pill haul "huge." OxyContin sells on the street for \$1 per milligram, generally, Long said.

The milligram value of the 400 pills seized was not known to prosecutors when questioned Tuesday but the State Patrol's report estimated the value at \$28,000 to \$40,000.

"Four hundred is a lot," Long said, adding that undercover controlled buys usually involve 10 to 40 pills.

It's unknown at this point where the pills were obtained.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that 7 million Americans abused prescription drugs in 2007 — 80 percent more than in 2000.

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