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Buyers Flock To Florida 'Pill Mills'

by Staff

Fast growing South Florida pain clinics are actually "pill mills" where doctors sell narcotics such as [OxyContin](#) to 65 patients per day or more, police say.

Broward County alone has 89 pain clinics, while the number of the clinics in South Florida -- many located in strip [malls](#) and office parks -- has risen from 60 to 150 in the past year, the Miami Herald reported Sunday.

The sale of OxyContin and other pain-relieving narcotics to walk-in customers attracts thousands of buyers from Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Massachusetts and other states -- with some buyers sometimes [camping](#) outside the clinics overnight, Hollywood, Fla., Police Capt. Allen Siegel, director of a South Broward narcotics task force, told the newspaper.

Police blame a jump in the deaths from [prescription pain medication](#) on the clinics, which, they say, flourish because of lax Florida laws allowing clinics to have in-house pharmacies that sell drugs straight to clients walking in off the street, the Herald said.

"This medicine is about profit-making," said Mark Trouville, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Miami office. "I hate to call them doctors. These people are just out to make money." (c) UPI