# Big Drug Busts in Dallas Texas

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### Online Pharmacy Worth \$24 Million Busted Near White Rock Lake:

In September 2013, David Allen Vogel was sentenced to 20 years in prison for creating the <u>Madison Pain Clinic</u>, an illegal pharmacy mainly focusing on painkillers. Vogel operated the business out of a medical office near White Rock Lake, but most of the Vogel's business came from online sales.

Customers filled out an online symptom form and paid a large amount of money to illegally receive the medication. Vogel developed extra-strength formulas and then solid it to addicts at a huge markup. His most powerful pill contained three times the dosage of a normal painkiller.

As more and more suicides and overdoses occurred which were connected with the medical clinic, the U.S. Attorney's Office became suspicious of the operation. When the

operation was busted, the feds seized \$6 million from the clinic. The operation grossed \$24 million over its five years of existence.

### **Quarter Ton of Xanax Found Near Thomas Jefferson High School:**

In February 2014, federal agents arrested two Dallas men after witnessing them accept a shipment of <u>550 pounds of Xanax</u>. Brandon Lynell Gardener and William Ian Brown were caught when a truck driver became suspicious of the contents of his haul, which was traveling from Denver to Dallas, and contacted the authorities.

Connected to the bust was a rash of Xanax overdoses at nearby Thomas Jefferson High School. Located only five miles away from the drug bust, the school called a parents meeting discussing the issue during the same week that the drug bust occurred.

#### 9 Pounds of Meth Found in Pleasant Grove:

In May 2014, Dallas police spotted Luis Diaz Valencia and Israel Diaz near a known drug house in Pleasant Grove. After witnessing both suspects leave at different times and commit traffic violations, police pulled them over. Diaz Valencia was stopped on Interstate 20 and police found 503 grams of methamphetamine in his pickup truck.

Police were suspicious of the house in Pleasant Grove so they obtained a search warrant for the house located on the 1500 block of St. Augustine Drive and found a stash of drugs and weapons. Dallas police found a 9mm pistol along with 9.3 pounds of methamphetamine in various states of production.

The house was barren, devoid of food or furniture, which is a clear sign of a drug house.

#### Seven Arrested in "Mexican Ice-Meth" Bust:

In November 2012, the <u>FBI busted a drug trafficking operation</u> that specialized in Mexican "Ice," a crystallized form of methamphetamine. Six men and one woman were arrested for importing large amount of ice from Mexico, along with some cocaine.

The ringleader, Tony Hernandez, was identified in 2007 when he took over the operation from his brother, Gonzalo, who was murdered. An informant stated that the drugs would enter the country via airplane and Hernandez, working for the La Familia Cartel, would then trade the ice for weapons that were sent back to Mexico. Most transactions occurred on Seevers Avenue in South Dallas, where handguns, assault rifles, shotguns, bullet-proof vests, and large amounts of drugs were kept.

U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldaña called the organization a "major drug trafficking organization that operated right in our backyard."

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