



## PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA BUREAU OF NARCOTICS  
AND DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROL

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### STATE'S TOP "DOCTOR SHOPPER" CHARGED

Charges have been filed against an individual who state drug agents have identified as Oklahoma's top "doctor shopper". This week, District Attorney Greg Mashburn filed charges in McClain and Garvin counties against 28-year old Keith Knox Simmons of Blanchard, Oklahoma. The charges stem from a 5-month investigation by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) focusing on prescription fraud and abuse. OBN Spokesman Mark Woodward says his agency's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) identified Simmons as Oklahoma's number-one drug seeker.

*"The PMP system tracks prescriptions filled in Oklahoma. It's a tool for law enforcement and medical professionals to identify potential fraud. Simply put, Simmons was putting hundreds of miles on his vehicle in order to feed his addiction to prescription drugs. The PMP system showed Simmons obtaining or filling prescriptions in 30 counties across the state, from Sequoyah County to Woodward County and from Kay County to Carter County."*

---Mark Woodward, OBN Spokesman

Over the past two years, Woodward says Simmons obtained 4,533 dosage units of pain relievers, mostly Hydrocodone (Lortab) from 195 different healthcare professionals, including doctors and dentists, and filled the prescriptions at 105 separate pharmacies, statewide.

*"Many prescription drug addicts think they'll fly under the radar if they use out-of-town doctors or pharmacies to feed their habit. But they can't hide from the Prescription Monitoring Program. Although Simmons' behavior put him at the top of the "doctor shopper" list, he isn't alone. An estimated 87,000 Oklahomans are non-medically using prescription drugs. Of the 612 drug-related deaths in 2008, 87% involved prescription drugs."*

---Mark Woodward, OBN Spokesman

OBN Director Darrell Weaver says this type of investigation reflects the magnitude of the prescription drug problem in Oklahoma.

*"Prescription drug abuse is a silent cancer in our state eating away in a destructive, methodical manner. No one in Oklahoma should live in pain but some folks are scamming the medical community and we must be aggressive with our intervention and enforcement efforts to stop it and make Oklahoma safer. The vast majority of our drug overdoses in the state are the result of prescription drugs and it's time to recognize and aggressively combat this formidable foe before more lives are ruined"*

---Darrell Weaver, OBN Director

Simmons was charged with 4 counts of **Obtaining a Controlled Dangerous Substance by Fraud** in McClain County, 4 counts of **Obtaining a Controlled Dangerous Substance by Fraud** in Garvin County, and 1 count of **Engaging in a Pattern of Criminal Offenses** in McClain County. Simmons could face a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.



**Oklahoma drivers license photo of  
Keith Knox Simmons**