

# Large U.S. pharmacy chains played role in opioid crisis, lawsuit claims

29 May 2020



focus of the thousands of lawsuits launched in relation to the U.S. opioid crisis, but few legal cases against large pharmacy chains have advanced, *The Times* reported.

**More information:** [The New York Times Article](#)

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

(HealthDay)—Large pharmacy chains, including CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, Giant Eagle, and those operated by Walmart, played a role in the U.S. opioid epidemic, alleges a lawsuit filed in federal court in Cleveland by two Ohio counties.

The lawsuit charges that the chains sold millions of pills in [small communities](#), gave bonuses to pharmacists who sold large amounts of prescription opioids, and partnered with [drug makers](#) to promote the drugs as safe and effective, *The New York Times* reported.

Only CVS responded to a request for comment. "Opioids are made and marketed by drug manufacturers, not pharmacists. Pharmacists dispense opioid prescriptions written by a licensed physician for a legitimate medical need," CVS said in a statement to *The Times*. The other companies have issued similar statements in the past, according to the newspaper.

Drug makers and distributors have been the main

APA citation: Large U.S. pharmacy chains played role in opioid crisis, lawsuit claims (2020, May 29)  
retrieved 22 April 2021 from  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-large-pharmacy-chains-role-opioid.html>

*This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.*