Understanding the ARCOS Data

According to data from the Automated of Reports and Consolidated Ordering System (ARCOS), the majority of opioids sold in the United States between 2006 and 2012 were not shipped by the three biggest distributors in the country. What does the data really say?

According to data from the Automated of Reports and Consolidated Ordering System (ARCOS), the majority of opioids sold in the United States between 2006 and 2012 were not shipped by the three biggest distributors in the country. What does the data really say?

- **75%**: 6 companies shipped 75% of opioid medication
- **44%**: The nation’s 3 largest distributors shipped 44% of the opioid market
- **11.7%**: AmerisourceBergen shipped just 11.7% of opioid medications, despite a 31.6% overall market share for prescription drugs
- **57%**: Distributors shipped only 57% of the opioids the DEA authorized for manufacture and distribution through its quotas
- **4.8%**: AmerisourceBergen’s opioid shipments amounted to only 4.8% of DEA’s opioid quotas

While AmerisourceBergen and our two largest competitors control 85% of the total market for prescription medicines shipped throughout the United States, the ARCOS data show that the majority of opioids sold were shipped by other companies.