DEA, the primary regulator of controlled substances, oversees every part of the supply chain.

**DEA sets opioid quotas:** the amount of opioids that each manufacturer can make and sell in that year.

**DEA's ARCOS Database**
- DEA maintains a database of all opioid sales
- ARCOS Reporting System: A government system to monitor the flow of controlled substances from their point of manufacture through commercial distribution channels to delivery to pharmacies or other retailers.

**Manufacturers**
- DEA registers manufacturers to produce medicines per DEA production quota
- Manufacturers report all opioid sales to DEA

**DEA**
- Drug Enforcement Administration

**Distributors**
- DEA registers distributors to buy medicines from manufacturers and ship upon order
- Distributors report all opioid sales, and any suspicious orders, to DEA

**Prescribers**
- DEA registers doctors, dentists, and veterinarians to prescribe opioids

**Pharmacies, Hospitals, and Other Dispensers**
- DEA registers pharmacies and others to order medicine from distributors and fill prescription for patients