



Deliberating Work-Life Balance Within Recovery Courts

A TARCP PROFESSIONAL SERIES
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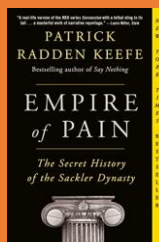
Read more on the importance of the collection and use of surveillance data at [Data Needs and Models for the Opioid Epidemic](#)

A panel discussion on opioid use disorder and building recovery ecosystems took place at the Department of Health Policy's Research into Policy & Practice Lecture at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. [VUMC and Ecosystems](#)

This Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool integrates the Recovery Ecosystem Index, overdose mortality rates, and data on poverty, education, and other demographic factors for counties in each of the 50 states. Go to [Substance Use Recovery Tool](#)

Read more on the importance of sharing knowledge at [Yale School of Medicine](#)

The Empire of Pain by Patrick Radden Keefe explores the dynasty built from Valium, OxyContin, and mass suffering.



It's All in the Numbers

Nitazenes is a class of synthetic opioid that is being used more frequently and is 10 times stronger than fentanyl. Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.

The Tennessee Department of Health published data in September that reflected nitazenes were linked to a four-fold increase in deadly overdoses in the last two years in Tennessee. There were no nitazene-related deaths in Tennessee in 2019, but in 2020 10 deaths were reported and in 2021 there were 42 nitazene-related deaths reported. Unfortunately, these number might not reflect what is really happening in the state due to nitazenes often being left off standard toxicology panels. Another concern is that naloxone might not be as successful in countering the effects of nitazenes due to this class of opioid being so much more potent. You can go to [TN Dept. of Health Data](#) for more details on these numbers.

In the CDC's *Notes from the Field*, it is reported that most nitazene-related deaths were found in Knox County with this most likely being due to Knox County's Regional Forensic Center sending their blood samples to the DEA for secondary lab testing. The DEA offers this lab testing as a free resource and is encouraging state and national forensic centers to submit their samples for additional testing to ensure correct numbers are being calculated for nitazene-related deaths.

Between the documented increase in the use of nitazenes and the strength of this class of opioids, having true numbers is crucial to getting the word out on this group of psychoactive substances and reducing harm by developing strategies. Such strategies include additional lab testing, surveillance, and connecting individuals to treatment for substance use disorders. Increasing naloxone training and distribution is required with multiple naloxone doses potentially being necessary to treat overdose. To read more on developing strategies, go to the above-referenced link.

With Appreciation



Daniel Allen Clendenin is the winner of this month's TARCP 20-ounce Yeti Rambler!

