

Nitazene-Involved Deaths in Tennessee, 2020–2021

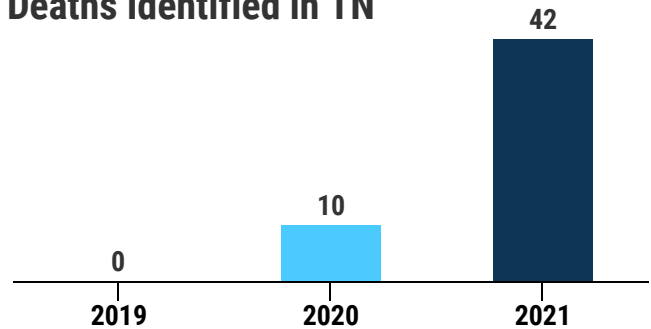
What are Nitazenes?

- Nitazenes, a new group of powerful illicit opioids, have been linked to overdose deaths in several states including Tennessee.
- Traditional toxicology panels do not usually capture nitazenes making it difficult to know the exact number of deaths involving these new substances.
- The TN Department of Health has used text search analysis on deaths reported to the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (TN SUDORS) to begin understanding nitazene-involved deaths in TN.

Read the full article to learn more



Number of Nitazene-Involved Deaths Identified in TN



From 2019–2021,

52

Nitazene-involved fatal drug overdoses were found using TN SUDORS data

Understanding Nitazene in TN

Four nitazene analogues have been identified in TN. The most common analogue is **Metonitazene**



In TN, only **1 in 4** nitazene-involved deaths were administered Naloxone.



Naloxone has been effective for reversing nitazene overdoses. Due to strength of these substances additional doses of naloxone may be needed.



100 % of nitazene deaths involved multiple substances. Often these deaths also include:

Fentanyl & Methamphetamine

Recommendations for the Community and State



Better testing is critical for tracking drug overdoses in TN. For more information on free secondary testing provided by the DEA, please click [here](#).



Learn about overdose prevention and the available resources in TN from the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS). For more information on trainings, please click [here](#).