



Trends, Analysis & Threats Webinar Summary

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ORS Program Overview

Christopher Jakim | HIDTA National Coordinator, Overdose Response Strategy

The [Overdose Response Strategy](#) is a unique collaboration between public health and public safety to reduce overdose deaths. Learn more on our website, and [contact the ORS team in your jurisdiction](#) to collaborate.

National Overdose Data Snapshot

Steve Barnes | Technical Advisor, Overdose Response Strategy

As of February 2026, reported overdose deaths declined ~21% for the 12-month period ending in September 2025 compared to September 2024, reflecting the continued downward trend from the 2023 peak. However, regional variation remains, with the pace of progress slowing in some areas—particularly parts of the Western United States.

The International Drug Supply & Evolving U.S. Trends

Thom Browne, Jr. | CEO, The Colombo Plan

- **Orphines** are an emerging class of synthetic opioids, including compounds such as **N-propionitrile chlorphine** (cychlorphine). Reports indicate detections in approximately 20 U.S. states, with toxicology linked to fatal overdoses in at least nine states, including clusters reported in Tennessee.
- **Fentanyl–nitazene mixtures** are appearing in concentrated regional clusters. Some jurisdictions report notable prevalence including Cook County, Illinois and parts of Ohio highlighting the growing layering of multiple high-potency synthetic opioids in the drug supply.
- **Ketamine is the common ingredient in many emerging international multi-drug mixtures** designed to mimic the stimulant–hallucinogenic effects of 2C-B. These mixtures (often referred to as “pink cocaine”) combine ketamine with a stimulant and appear in the U.S. primarily as methamphetamine–ketamine powder mixtures that carry increased risk of elevated cardiovascular stress.
- **Etomidate-containing vape products.** The anesthetic etomidate has been proliferating rapidly in illicit vape products in Southeast Asia. Given the popularity of vaping in the U.S., this is a trend worth monitoring. While etomidate is not an opioid, naloxone should be given in response to *any* suspected drug overdose to reverse any possible opioid effects.

DEA Drug Trends, Analysis & Threats

Agnes Winokur, PhD | Director, Special Testing and Research Lab

- In 2025, DEA laboratory data indicate illicit fentanyl averaged about 1.6 milligrams per tablet and roughly 10% purity in powder form. **Purity of fentanyl in powder form has declined** in recent years after peaking around 21% in 2023.
- **N-propionitrile chlorphine** was identified as the top novel drug detected DEA laboratory data in the past 90 days, reflecting the ongoing evolution of synthetic opioid analogs entering the illicit market.
- As **kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH)** become more widely available, DEA laboratories are working to address analytical challenges and sharing validated testing methods and partnering with forensic laboratories through trainings and webinars to improve detection across product types (e.g., tablets, capsules, and plant material).
- **Vape products continue to diversify** as drug delivery devices. DEA laboratories are detecting a range of substances in vape liquids, including synthetic cannabinoids, THC variants, and psychedelic compounds, illustrating the expanding range of substances delivered through vaping devices.

Webinar Materials and Additional Resources

Webinar recording, slides, and other materials are posted on the ORS website under [TAT Webinars](#). Links below include referenced materials as well as our featured speakers' recommended further reading.

- [Emerging Global Synthetic Opioid Threats: Benzimidazol-2-ones – The Orphines — Colombo Plan Health Alert](#)
- [Increase in Fatal Overdoses Linked to Novel Synthetic Opioid N-Propionitrile Chlorphine \(Cychlorphine\)](#)
- [Northwestern University “OD Pulse” Dashboard](#)
- [Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics](#)