

RTI Statement of Commitment
NAM Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Our staff of nearly 5,000 people provides research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, and economic and social policy. Our research helps policy makers implement informed decisions—based on sound science—for the public good.

Substance abuse research has been a long-standing pillar of RTI's work, with a focus in recent years on the opioid crisis, as it first emerged and now continues to evolve. The centerpiece of our substance abuse work is the [National Survey of Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH), a contract RTI has held with SAMHSA for 30 years. Annually, we administer over 65,000 interviews to get a pulse on America's drug use trends. In addition, for the last 20 years, RTI has managed the US Department of Justice's [National Forensic Laboratory Information System](#) (NFLIS), which collects results from chemical analyses of drugs seized by authorities across the country. More than 26 million drug exhibits are housed in the database, which provides insights into the use of synthetic opioids like fentanyl. In addition to these flagship projects, RTI has led many other opioid-related studies with ASPE, CDC, FDA, PCORI, and SAMHSA, and has conducted grant research funded by NIDA.

Moreover, to combat the crisis, RTI has invested internally to jumpstart timely and novel solutions to emerging opioid-related problems. These projects include:

- **Data Fusion Center:** Integrating public health data such as overdose deaths, naloxone rescues, and emergency department visits across multiple sources to pinpoint emerging hotspots and trends.
- **Treatment Report Cards:** Developing a provider report card that will allow patients and their families to compare treatment sites and allow them to identify high-quality care that best fits their needs.
- **Fentanyl Test Strips:** Demonstrated that people who use opioids will change their behavior if they test their drugs for fentanyl before they use.
- **Public Perceptions of Stigma:** Collected and analyzed survey data on knowledge and opinions about individuals with prescription opioid use disorder and the health care providers who care for them.
- **Survey of Public Service Announcement (PSA) Effectiveness:** Tested response to PSA ads on responsible opioid use with a panel of adults who had used opioids in the past twelve months.

RTI supports the full spectrum of prevention and treatment efforts to combat this epidemic. We believe there is only one way to successfully handle a situation this complex: with a coordinated response from every possible front.

For more information on our opioid-related experience, please visit our Opioid Research [webpage](#).