

## GENERAL / HEALTH

***Holiday Season Can Be a Dangerous Time for Drug-Related Deaths***

A high-dose naloxone product could help families be prepared

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Nov. 28, 2022) – Times are changing. For 18 months, licensed clinical counselor Charles Pemberton has carried a trauma bag in his truck. Out of all the contents, he's only needed band-aids and Ibuprofen until recently, when he had to reach for naloxone – the medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Pemberton said when a driver passed out in a fast-food restaurant drive-thru in front of him, he sprang into action, administered two doses of naloxone, and possibly saved a life.

"At that moment, all my training kicked in," Pemberton said. "It wasn't until later that I felt relief that I had naloxone on hand."

As we move into the holiday season, which sometimes brings stress and sadness, Pemberton knows it is essential, now more than ever, to have conversations and be prepared, as some people cope with substance use. "Make sure to ask questions and listen, but don't lecture," Pemberton said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two of the most dangerous months for drug-and-alcohol-related deaths are December and January. Statistics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse show opioid overdose deaths continue to increase annually, primarily with fentanyl. In fact, more than 107,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose in 2021. The DEA reports more overdoses are happening as criminal drug networks mass-produce fake

pills containing fentanyl and claim them to be legitimate prescription pills.

ZIMHI® (naloxone HCL injection) is one of the products on the market addressing the opioid crisis. The product offers the highest dose of naloxone available as an intramuscular injection to get it into the blood quickly. The 5 mg/0.5 mL product was FDA-approved in October 2021 and gives first responders, caregivers, and community members another naloxone option in the fentanyl crisis.

"The opioid crisis is larger than ever, and we recognize that being prepared is imperative," said Breck Jones Sr., CEO of US WorldMeds. "ZIMHI is another treatment to have on hand in the event of an overdose. Even if you think you'll never need it, you may give someone a second chance."

## INDICATION

ZIMHI is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression in adult and pediatric patients. ZIMHI is intended for immediate administration as emergency therapy in settings where opioids may be present. ZIMHI is not a substitute for emergency medical care.

Get emergency medical help right away after using the first dose of ZIMHI. Rescue breathing or CPR may be given while waiting for emergency medical help.

For more information on ZIMHI, visit [zimhi.com](http://zimhi.com) or contact ZIMHIPublicHealthInfo@usworldmeds.com.

***second chance:*** *from p.10*

fully our state of Tennessee will now provide that opportunity for almost 200 of us stuck in this scenario.

I have been fortunate enough to get involved with an organization called the Community Defense of East Tennessee. I have been able to get support for my legal challenges and to lift up the stories of all the juvenile lifers in Tennessee who are suffering these long sentences. There was no reluctance, doubt, fear, or hesitation, only acceptance and a willingness to help.

I've continuously and intentionally taken every step I could to better myself as a person in spite

of my long sentence. I have been taking college classes and last month I crossed the stage to receive my degree.

I shared my story for a documentary about 51 year sentences for juveniles earlier this year with Al Jazeera English.

I've always known in my heart, mind, and spirit, that I was more than the tragic events that landed me in this situation.

I owe it to not only myself, but my family, my community, my city, and also to the memory of the young man who lost his life in the senseless crime I participated in.

Wherever I go in this existence, I'll forever carry that debt with me. I'll do all in my power to make good on it.

Even at times when hope seemed not to exist, something would happen to remind me that darkness cannot exist without light. I know that I am a man reformed who is worthy of a second chance.

I'm not exactly sure what this ruling will mean for me and others like myself in the immediate future. I do however know that I remain hopeful, I have been preparing for this moment for a long time.

CHEERS TO 40 YEARS

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scan the QR code.