

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION THROUGH VAPE LIQUID: A STUDY AT THE NORTH SUMATRA REGIONAL POLICE

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### ABSTRACT

This research is entitled Law Enforcement Against the Spread of Narcotics Through Vape Liquid (North Sumatra Regional Police Study). The formulation of the problem is (1) What are the factors that cause the spread of narcotics through vape liquid? (2) How is law enforcement carried out by the North Sumatra Regional Police in overcoming the spread of narcotics through vape liquid? (3) What are the obstacles for the North Sumatra Regional Police in enforcing the law against the spread of narcotics through vape liquid? The research method used is normative juridical legal research, with a descriptive analytical research type. To approach the problem, a normative juridical approach is used. The data used are primary and secondary data. The results of the study show that (1) The unemployment factor has a significant impact on perpetrators in carrying out their actions to distribute narcotics through vape liquid. Of course, this is the main source of narcotics dealers to get money even though it is done in an improper way to support their family's needs (2) Law enforcement carried out by the North Sumatra Regional Police in overcoming the spread of narcotics through vape liquid is to ensnare narcotics perpetrators with Article 114 subsidiary Article 112 of Law No. 35 of 2009 with a penalty of 20 years in prison. After an investigation at the Police level, the North Sumatra Regional Police have then submitted the case files to the Medan District Attorney's Office to be processed in court to obtain legal certainty. (3) Obstacles to the North Sumatra Regional Police in enforcing the law on the spread of narcotics through vape liquid, namely the increasing spread of cases of abuse of electronic cigarettes which contain narcotics, this is because Indonesia does not yet have specific regulations governing alternative tobacco products, other than those related to excise. These regulations must be separated from the Narcotics Law or the Narcotics Law must be immediately revised with the addition of liquid narcotics.

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## INTRODUCTIONS

One of the law enforcement processes is carried out by making laws and regulations that regulate law enforcement and the need for supporting elements of law enforcement, namely law enforcement officials such as police, prosecutors, and judges. The police is one of the law enforcement institutions or institutions that has an important role in a state of law. In a state of law, the life in which the law is found is highly determined by the structural factors and/or legal institutions that must carry out law enforcement fairly, in addition to other factors, in addition to the substance of the law and the factors of legal culture. Therefore, the operational effectiveness of legal structures and/or institutions is largely determined by their position in state organizations.

The Police According to Article 1 Number 1 of Law Number 2 of 2002 are all matters related to police functions and institutions in accordance with laws and regulations. The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia has a function as one of the functions of the state government in the field of maintaining public security and order, law enforcement, protection, protection, and service to the community. The Indonesian Police carries out a mandate from the state to carry out duties and functions in the field of law enforcement in accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the 1945 Constitution and the Police Law. In carrying out this task, the National Police is guided by the provisions of laws and regulations, in addition to that it must also uphold the police code of ethics. (Andriansyah, 2022; Syamsudin & Siregar, 2026)

In Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, the main duties of the Police are:

- a. Maintain public security and order;
- b. Enforce the law; and
- c. Providing protection, protection, and service to the community

The police who have the task of investigating and conducting investigations, namely according to Article 1 Number 3 of the Regulation of the Head of the Criminal Investigation Agency of the National Police Number 1 of 2022 states that Investigation is a series of investigative actions to find and find an event that is suspected of being a criminal act in order to determine whether or not an investigation can be carried out in accordance with the manner regulated in the law. According to Article 1 Number 4 of the Regulation of the Head of the National Police Criminal Investigation Agency Number 1 of 2022 states that Investigation is a series of actions by investigators in terms of and in accordance with the manner regulated in the law to find and collect evidence that occurred and to find the suspect. The police can make efforts to maintain order and security in the community to prevent criminal acts.

Moeljatno said that the definition of a criminal act is an act that is prohibited by a prohibition legal rule accompanied by a threat (sanction) in the form of a certain penalty, for anyone who violates the prohibition. Criminal law is divided into two parts, namely general criminal law (*algemeen strafrecht*) and special criminal law (*bijzonder strafrech*). General criminal law is a law that has been deliberately formed to be enforced for everyone in general, while special criminal law is a criminal law that is deliberately formed to be enforced for certain people only, for example against perpetrators of narcotics crimes. The police as law enforcement officers in Indonesia have an active role in reducing the number of narcotics trafficking. In addition to protecting the community and creating security, the police have the task of stopping the circulation of narcotics in Indonesia. With the existence of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics, it has become a guideline for the police in law enforcement against narcotics crimes. (Martin & Jegasothy, 2025; Pranata et al., 2022)

Based on Article 81 of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, it is explained that "Investigators of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and BNN investigators are authorized to conduct investigations into the abuse and illicit circulation of Narcotics and Narcotic Precursors based on this Law." The National Narcotics Agency and the Police have the same rights and authority in conducting investigations into the abuse and illicit circulation of

narcotics, and if the National Police arrest a suspect, whether it is arrested or caught, the National Police does not need to coordinate with the BNN because the National Police has its own authority in law enforcement, namely through the Directorate of Narcotics and vice versa if the BNN arrests the suspect there is no need to coordinate with the National Police except there is a relationship between the suspect arrested by the National Police and the suspect arrested by the BNN in order to provide the clearest information in revealing the illicit circulation of narcotics and narcotic precursors. The police have an important and authoritative role in the investigation and investigation of narcotics cases through the Directorate of Drug Investigation which is regulated in the Regulation of the Chief of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Number 14 of 2018 concerning the Organizational Structure and Work Procedures at the Regional Police Level. (Khobayasi & Setyorini, 2024; Putra & Iskandar, 2023)

Narcotics are substances that are able to affect the central nervous system, due to changes in the emotional, visual environment or vision due to these substances. Narcotics can be very useful in the treatment of a disease. However, if used incorrectly or violating treatment standards, it can be said to be a criminal act of narcotics abuse. The crime of narcotics trafficking is a never-ending problem in its prevention and countermeasures in Indonesia, narcotics trafficking can occur through land, sea, or air delivery. Narcotics circulation can even be accessed easily through social media. (Thong et al., 2026)

One form of effort to spread narcotics is carried out in a new mode in liquid form. The trend that has increased from year to year in terms of the number of criminal acts and the number of perpetrators arrested can be used as a challenge in the security sector due to the impact of the industrial revolution era 4.0 in terms of socio-security. Technological advancements of narcotics perpetrators launched actions by selling liquids containing narcotics through the internet and packaged with various flavors according to tastes, the mixture of liquids containing cannabis extracts and synthetic marijuana that has been diluted. This type of narcotic can be mixed with coffee or electronic cigarette liquid (Vape) which means it is easier to use and difficult to detect and can be used by anyone, especially teenagers. The drug problem among teenagers is not an easy thing to overcome, because in handling it needs to involve various parties and cooperation ranging from the government, police officers, elements of society, mass media, families, schools and teenagers themselves. (Erwany et al., 2026; Rizapristiawan, 2023)

The abuse of narcotics and illegal drugs among the younger generation is increasing. The rampant deviation of the behavior of the young generation can endanger the survival of the nation in the future, because youth as the generation that is expected to be the successor of the nation, are increasingly fragile and eaten away by addictive substances that destroy nerves, so that the youth cannot think clearly. Liquids containing narcotic substances cannot be guaranteed to enter Indonesia, but cases of liquid narcotics are difficult to detect and its spread is growing rapidly. In 2012, cases of liquid narcotics were found but it was not followed up as it is now, coupled with the crowd of people who use e-cigarettes today, which makes it difficult for the police and BNN to detect this liquid narcotic. The police as one of the institutions tasked with maintaining public security and order has new challenges in dealing with such rapid changes in the era. Efforts to counter the circulation of liquid narcotics must receive serious attention from both the public and law enforcement so that it does not continue to develop and grow in society. (Jeon et al., 2026; Sodeifian et al., 2025)

This case of liquid narcotics abuse has become a big problem in Indonesia, on January 14, 2023 the Directorate of Narcotics of the Metro Jaya Police and Customs revealed a case of the home industry manufacturing of liquid narcotics in the Kembangan area, West Jakarta with evidence of 366 bottles of liquid narcotics measuring 50ml and 41 bottles of liquid narcotics measuring 30ml. In 2024, there was also a case of liquid narcotics carried out by celebrity Chandrika Chika on April 23, 2024 at a South Jakarta hotel with evidence of one e-cigarette containing liquid narcotics containing methamphetamine. Cases of liquid narcotics have also occurred in the Sumatra region, one of which is in North Sumatra Province. The Directorate of Drug Investigation of the North Sumatra Police (North Sumatra) dismantled drug trafficking in an apartment in the Putri Hijau area, Medan. The narcotics are in the form of vapes or

e-cigarettes. The Director of Narcotics Investigation of the North Sumatra Police, Kombes Jean Calvijn Simanjuntak, explained that the disclosure of this case began with public information about the buying and selling of e-cigarettes containing narcotics in Medan. The promotion and transaction of this drug vape uses social media. (Muktar et al., 2025)

The police then conducted a series of investigations and secured a package of drug vapes sent by online motorcycle taxis in the hotel parking area in the Sei Belutu street area, Medan Baru. The evidence became a clue for investigators in dismantling the factory where the drug was produced which was located in an apartment in the Putri Hijau area. At the apartment, the police then managed to arrest two suspects, namely AS (37) and JH (41). Calvijn said that when he was about to be arrested, the two perpetrators wanted to deliver two packages of drugs via an expedition service. At that place, the police managed to confiscate 2,965 cartridges containing liquids containing class I and NPS narcotics of the RICCAT MILLE brand and 35 cartridges containing liquids containing class I and NPS narcotics of the RICCAT MILLE brand that had not been packaged.

The police also secured class I and NPS narcotics raw materials that can produce 60 thousand cartridges. In addition, the police also confiscated solvents, general chemicals, laboratory equipment, raw materials and precursors of class 1 and NPS narcotics, liquids, flavorings, liquid-making sweeteners, waste products and recycling experiments to various packaging boxes, cartridges, pods, and devices. Based on the confessions of the suspects, they were controlled by a person with the initials JB and RR. They were given an initial operational fee of IDR 50 million. "The production process is controlled by DPO JB who was introduced by DPO RR with an initial operational cost of Rp 50 million," explained Kombes Calvijn.

The perpetrators operate daily and can produce 300 cartridges per day. Not only in the North Sumatra region, the perpetrators also circulated the illegal goods outside the island of Sumatra. In one day, it can produce 300 cartridges at a price of IDR 5 million per package. In two months at the crime scene, it has been distributed six times to Medan, Jakarta and West Java, explained Kombes Calvijn. This is a reference for the author to see the problems that arise with the circulation of liquid narcotics where narcotics that are usually used as a certain treatment this time narcotics in liquid form cause opportunities for irresponsible individuals to produce and trade liquids containing narcotics that have not been explained in the latest attachment to the Regulation of the Minister of Health Number 30 of 2023 concerning Changes in the Classification of Narcotics and how the police carry out law enforcement in the form of investigations and investigations where many police only know the general law and do not understand the special law and prevent the circulation and use of narcotics in liquid form in the North Sumatra Police area. (Hayati et al., 2020; Kumara & Wijaya, 2022)

Based on the background of the problem that has been described, the author is interested in conducting research where this thesis research is a requirement that must be carried out in order to complete the study in the Master of Law postgraduate program at the University of Medan Area. Therefore, the author raised the title of the thesis, namely "**Law Enforcement Against Narcotics Trafficking Through Vape Liquid (Study at the North Sumatra Police)**".

## **METHOD**

This thesis research was carried out at the Directorate of Drug Investigation (Ditresnarkoba) of the North Sumatra Police which is located at Jalan Sisingamangaraja Km 10.5, Medan City, North Sumatra Province. The type of research used is normative juridical research with descriptive-analytical properties. This approach focuses on the study of legal norms and principles, legal systems, vertical and horizontal synchronization of regulations, legal comparisons, and legal history relevant to law enforcement against the spread of narcotics through vape liquid. Descriptive-analytical nature is used to describe systematically and deeply the problems being studied, then analyzed based on the provisions of laws and regulations and legal doctrines in order to formulate solutions to the problems studied. (Wiraguna, 2024)

The informants in this study are personnel of the North Sumatra Regional Police Directorate of Narcotics who have knowledge, experience, and direct involvement in handling narcotics cases, especially related to the spread of narcotics through vape liquid. The selection of informants is carried out taking into account a healthy physical and spiritual condition, an adequate understanding of the object of the research, relevant professional experience, and a willingness to provide information. Interviews were conducted to obtain empirical data that supported normative analysis, so as to be able to provide a factual picture of law enforcement practices in the field.

The main data collection technique is carried out through a documentary study using secondary data consisting of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include relevant laws and regulations and legal norms, secondary legal materials in the form of literature, books, and scientific works that support analysis, while tertiary legal materials include legal dictionaries and encyclopedias. The data obtained are analyzed qualitatively with a deductive approach, which is to draw conclusions from general provisions towards specific application to the case being studied, thus resulting in a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the research problem.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

### Factors for the Occurrence of Narcotics Circulation Through Vape Liquid

The rule of law is very useful in the application of justice, and useful to society. In the application of legal rules in the field, of course, there is often legal uncertainty in prioritizing justice. Legal certainty certainly has a clear nature, and justice has an idealistic nature so that law enforcement can determine the type of case with the application of laws and regulations alone and that sense of justice is not realized. Therefore, in analyzing legal acts, a sense of justice must of course be prioritized. Because the law is not solely seen from the point of view of written law.

Based on the results of an interview with Mr. AKP. Abdi Harahap, S.H as the Investigator of the North Sumatra Police Directorate of Narcotics that the rule of law certainly has a great impact on narcotics perpetrators in carrying out their actions. The weak rule of law and the low sanctions given to narcotics perpetrators make perpetrators carry out their actions again by distributing narcotics through vape liquid. An individual's intellect can be studied by how the person thinks in taking an action. In the intellectual factor, individuals can be influenced by their attitudes and actions. The person can make a breakthrough or a new discovery so that his creation can be made and can get a very big profit. Based on the results of an interview with Mr. AKP. Abdi Harahap, S.H as the Investigator of the North Sumatra Police Directorate of Narcotics that the narcotics perpetrator is an intellectual so that the perpetrator can mix and mix types of raw materials and raw materials of the narcotics type and put them in vape liquid type electronic cigarettes to be ready for distribution. (Dewi, 2025; Ikhwan & Kartini, 2024)

In the current situation, of course, many people do not have a permanent job and even there is a massive termination of employment by business actors, of course there is a great impact on the person or perpetrator in committing his crime, which when a narcotics crime is committed, of course the person needs economic needs that must be realized, Then the person will have bad intentions to commit narcotics trafficking crimes, especially narcotics trafficking through vape liquid. Based on the results of an interview with Mr. AKP. Abdi Harahap, S.H as the Investigator of the North Sumatra Police Directorate of Narcotics said that economic factors had a great impact on the perpetrators in carrying out their actions to distribute narcotics through vape liquid. Of course, this is the main source of narcotics traffickers to get money even in the wrong way in supporting their families.

The police are part of an institution that has the task of maintaining security, order, and law enforcement. The Regional Police (Polda) is a unit in carrying out an area whose unit is in the National Police Chief. The task of the Police is to carry out the duties of the National Police at the level of the regional level, namely at the provincial level. The National Police is an agency that comes directly from the National Police Headquarters. The Regional Police is led by the Head of the Regional National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (Kapolda), who is responsible to the National Police Chief.

The Chief of Police was assisted by the Deputy Regional Head (Wakapolda). The Regional Police is in charge of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Resort (Polres). The Head of the North Sumatra Regional Police is currently held by the Inspector General. Whisnu Hermawan Februanto. The North Sumatra Police Office is located on Jalan Sisingamangaraja Km. 10.5 No. 60 Medan. In its activities, the North Sumatra Police has a vision and mission. The vision of the North Sumatra Police is the realization of superior security and public order services, the implementation of partnerships between the National Police and the community, effective law enforcement and proactive police synergy in order to strengthen domestic security. (Adrida, 2022; Dewi, 2025; Ikhwan & Kartini, 2024)

#### **Law Enforcement Made by the North Sumatra Police Against Narcotics Traffickers of Vape Liquid**

The North Sumatra Police Drug Investigation Directorate secured 2 (two) suspects in the case of narcotics trafficking through vape liquid. In distributing vape liquids that contain narcotics. In the examination at the Regional Police, which was stated in the examination report (BAP), the two suspects were arrested on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at around 13.00 WIB on Jalan Putri Hijau Kel.

The arrest process carried out by the North Sumatra Police initially the police officers of the North Sumatra Police Directorate of Narcotics made a cover-up purchase and at that time the officers managed to secure a package in the form of 1 (one) black box with Riccat Mille written on it which contained 1 (one) unit of Pods and 3 (three) pieces of catdrige containing suspected group 1 narcotics where previously I was told by JALAK BALI (under investigation) to prepare the package and the gosen would ordered by JALAK BALI (in lidik) and I was told to deliver it to the Lexing Ton Apartment Lobby when the online Dirver had arrived. (Andriansyah, 2022; Junaidi & Ratna Said, 2024)

Then a fellow suspect named JHONATHA alias JO told him to deliver the package to the Lobby and that's how the package could reach the Officer who was disguised as a buyer. Then I was contacted again during the day to prepare 2 (two) packages each containing 1 (one) pod unit and 2 (two) cartridges and told me to deliver them to JNE and Driver Online. Furthermore, when I was about to leave Room 23 DZ of the Lexing Ton Apartment, Jalan Putri Hijau Kel.

Criminal punishment for perpetrators of narcotics abuse and trafficking is regulated in Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics which is in accordance with the concept of criminalization which has the principles of justice, protecting, humanizing, protecting and having legal certainty. In article 114 subsidiary article 112 of Law No. 35 of 2009 which must be considered related to the owner and possession of narcotic goods must be seen from its purpose and contextual and have to do with the words in the narcotics law rules. In Article 112 of the Narcotics Law, which is always used in the entrapment of narcotics perpetrators and dealers. When viewed in the elements that appear in Article 112 of the Narcotics Law, that is that every person, without rights or against the law, possesses, stores, controls, or provides. Narcotics are part of a special criminal act that has its own rules and is not in the Criminal Code or the Criminal Code. The regulation of these criminal acts is in a special law because narcotics are very dangerous for abusers or narcotics dealers (Adam et al., 2025; Pranata et al., 2022; Syamsudin & Siregar, 2026).

#### **Obstacles of the North Sumatra Police in Enforcing the Law on Narcotics Trafficking through Vape Liquid**

Legal regulation is the product of a rule used by legal entities in the legal environment as a system consisting of agreements issued by them and a new regulation that has been prepared. Legal regulation consists of the life of a law (*living law*), and there is no regulation that already exists in the collection of laws and regulations (*law books*). Legal regulation is closely related to the process of forming legal regulations that are analyzed by experts who make a legal regulation. Legal regulations have values that can make the law enforceable in society that has been prepared in laws and regulations. Meanwhile, when influenced by the political atmosphere in a country, there will be a legal regulation, namely laws and regulations.

Legal regulations are often included in a legislative product influenced by the interests of certain groups. So that the resulting law is not responsive to the development of society. The broader consequence is that the law is used as an instrument of power and not as a control of power or limiting the arbitrariness of those in power.

According to Satjipto Rahardjo who spoke from Radbruch, there are basic values of the law, namely Justice, Usefulness and Legal Certainty. It is not uncommon for these three basic values to contradict each other in law enforcement. If this happens, what must be prioritized is justice, considering that the purpose of the law is to create a sense of justice in society. Unresponsive and democratic laws and regulations will only cause opinions in society that can disrupt legal stability, economic and political security. So that to form laws and regulations that are in accordance with the aspirations that develop in society, they must be free from intervention and the interests of certain parties or groups. (Erwany et al., 2026; Khobayasi & Setyorini, 2024)

Another problem found in the laws is that there are various laws that do not yet have implementing regulations, even though in these laws they have been ordered. Another problem that may arise in the law is the ambiguity in the words used in the formulation of certain articles. This is likely due to the use of words whose meanings can be interpreted broadly. In terms of the act of establishing the narcotics law is for the sake of containing a safe and peaceful situation and conditions for the community and for the achievement of a means of social control of the community if drugs and substances that have been prohibited from being used, possessed or controlled or to circulate in trade traffic by the government, are for the protection of health and education and peace for the present and future generations, to the need for a level of vigilance and a shared responsibility within the community and between the community and the government.

Based on the results of an interview with Mr. AKP. Abdi Harahap, S.H The increasing number of cases of abuse of e-cigarettes which contain narcotics is because Indonesia does not have a special regulation that regulates alternative tobacco products, other than related to excise. This should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Health as the authority in tobacco production and must issue special rules for e-cigarettes and other alternative tobacco products. The regulation must be separated from the Narcotics Law or the Narcotics Law must be immediately revised with the addition of liquid narcotics.

#### **North Sumatra Police's Efforts to Overcome Obstacles to Law Enforcement on the Spread of Vape Liquid Narcotics**

This program is aimed at taking legal action against drug manufacturers, dealers, and users. This program is a government agency that is obliged to supervise and control the production and distribution of narcotics. In addition, it is also in the form of action against users who violate the law on narcotics. Agencies related to this program include the Police, the Ministry of Health, the Food and Drug Control Center (BPOM), Immigration, Customs, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Court.

The wide range of illicit narcotics trafficking is certainly expected to involve the participation of the community, including NGOs and other community institutions to participate in helping the relevant officials. To facilitate public participation, the police must actively promote messages and invitations to report to the police if they see narcotics abuse activities, also include contacts and addresses that can be contacted so that the public is not confused when they want to report. Reporting narcotics violation activities like this of course indirectly endangers the safety of the whistleblower, because narcotics syndicates certainly do not want their activities to be tracked and known by the authorities. Therefore, it is the duty of the police to protect the safety of the whistleblower's life and keep his identity secret. The problem of narcotics abuse is a complex problem that is generally caused by three factors, namely: individual factors, environmental/social factors and availability factors, suggesting that effective prevention of narcotics abuse requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. (Martin & Jegasothy, 2025; Mufti & Limatahu, 2022; Nam et al., 2025)

Any approach taken without considering these three factors will be redundant. Therefore, the role of all relevant sectors, including parents, teachers, community leaders, religious leaders, youth groups and NGOs in the community, in drug prevention is very important. The establishment of procedures for cooperative relations between social community organizations and with formal/informal community leaders is very important to facilitate and improve coordination in the control and prevention of narcotics abuse in their environment. As a result, it is very clear that in addition to people who abuse narcotics becoming unproductive, their presence is very burdensome and even destroys family life, threatens environmental security, and triggers criminal acts in the community. This bad situation has caused people to be really anxious and sick and the community has started a war against narcotics.

Effective prevention of drug abuse and circulation requires the active role of all levels of society including parents, community and religious leaders, adolescent groups and other community groups. Participation and collaboration by all levels of society is an indispensable strategy to respond in a multi-disciplinary manner to the problem of narcotics abuse which is very complex.

This very complex problem of narcotics abuse still requires comprehensive and integrated handling, with the active participation of the community both individually and in groups that have the potential to help the younger generation prevent narcotics abuse. Efforts to deal with repressive narcotics crimes are also an effort to counter crime with criminal law which is essentially part of law prevention efforts (especially the prevention of narcotics criminal laws) therefore it is often said that criminal law politics and policies are also part of law enforcement (Law Enforcement Policy). (Adam et al., 2025; Thong et al., 2026)

The increasing cases of abuse of e-cigarettes containing narcotics are because Indonesia does not have a special regulation that regulates alternative tobacco products, other than related to excise. The Ministry of Health as the authority responsible for tobacco products and their derivatives must immediately issue special regulations for e-cigarettes and other alternative tobacco products. The regulation must be made specifically separate from cigarette regulations. It needs to be regulated from upstream to downstream, such as ingredients that should not be added to liquids, supervision, to special marketing for 18 years and older. The rule is to prevent the abuse and circulation of narcotics in any form

## CONCLUSION

This study found that the spread of narcotics through vape liquid is influenced by three main factors. First, the weakness of regulations and the relatively low deterrent effect of criminal sanctions encourage perpetrators to modify the pattern of narcotics circulation through new media that are more difficult to detect. Second, the intellectual factor of perpetrators who have the ability to mix and mix narcotic substances into electronic cigarette liquids shows a transformation of the modus operandi based on knowledge and technology. Third, economic factors are the dominant motive, because the circulation of narcotics through vape liquid is seen as a quick way to obtain financial benefits even though it is against the law.

The law enforcement carried out by the North Sumatra Police against the perpetrators of distributing narcotics through vape liquid has referred to the provisions of Article 114 subsidiary to Article 112 of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics with a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. The case handling process is carried out through the stages of investigation and investigation, then the case file is transferred to the Medan District Prosecutor's Office for the prosecution process at the trial. This step shows that law enforcement officials have tried to implement the applicable legal provisions to provide legal certainty and a deterrent effect on the perpetrators.

This research also identifies a number of obstacles in law enforcement, including aspects of regulation, human resources, facilities and infrastructure, and community factors. The absence of specific regulations regarding e-cigarettes and alternative tobacco products containing narcotics causes a gap in norms that hinder the optimization of

enforcement. Limited human resources with technological competence, limited space to store forensic standard evidence, and low public participation in reporting narcotics trafficking have also slowed down the eradication process. These findings emphasize the need to strengthen regulations, increase the capacity of the apparatus, improve supporting infrastructure, and strengthen the role of the community in supporting the effectiveness of law enforcement.

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