

Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS)

STREET NARCOTICS UPDATE



Synthetic Cannabinoid “MDMB-4en-PINACA” detected in Heroin/Fentanyl/Dope

Samples of this potent substance were detected across jurisdictions in Massachusetts (Boston, Lynn, Pittsfield & North Adams) from February 2020 to January 2021. This drug is synthesized by different illicit laboratories so dosing may vary, even within the same batch. If you have suspicions about the content of a drug, contact the MADDS project for possible testing.

How to Identify synthetic cannabinoids

- Synthetic cannabinoids appear as a yellowish powder and blend in to other illicit powdered street drugs.
- Samples have been found both in powdered form and in the residue of cookers and cottons used for preparing drugs for consumption.
- Media and poison control reports indicate that synthetic cannabinoids are usually sprayed onto plant material and smoked. They can also be vaped, injected or consumed orally.



Health Effects

- These symptoms have been reported from synthetic cannabinoid exposure: cardiovascular effects (elevated blood pressure, fast heart rate, heart attack, or stroke), rapid loss of consciousness, unresponsiveness, seizures, vomiting, delirium, psychosis, and aggressive and violent behavior.
- Severe poisoning is more common with synthetic cannabinoids and can cause death. In most of the reported deaths, it was mixed in with other substances, such as fentanyl, heroin, and other opioids.

How to Respond

Summon medical attention. Administer Narcan if symptoms present as possible polysubstance/opioid overdose.

For more info and resources scan:



MADDS is a state-funded collaboration between Brandeis University researchers, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, various town police departments and local harm reduction agencies. Contact us at maddsbrandeis@gmail.com