

# Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS)

## STREET NARCOTICS ALERT

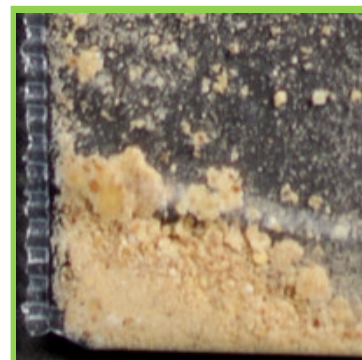


### Synthetic Cannabinoid "ADB-BUTINACA" aka "ADB-BINACA" detected in Dope/Heroin/Fentanyl

Samples containing ADB-BUTINACA were detected across three jurisdictions in Massachusetts (Boston, Revere & Lawrence) from April 2021 to August 2021. The samples were sold as dope/heroin/fentanyl or Xanax bars. Nearly all contained fentanyl and 4-fluorofentanyl, a potent fentanyl analogue. ADB-BUTINACA is manufactured in clandestine laboratories and is not cut or packaged in a standard fashion. Potency varies widely for the end user.

### How to Identify Synthetic Cannabinoids

- ADB-BUTINACA typically appears as a yellow powder and readily blends into other illicit street drugs.
- ADB-BUTINACA has been found in powders, pills, and drug residues.
- Synthetic cannabinoids like ADB-BUTINACA are usually sprayed onto plant material and smoked. In these cases, they were sold as street dope and people were injecting them. They can also be vaped or consumed orally.



### Health Effects

- Severe symptoms have been reported from synthetic cannabinoid exposure: seizures, acute kidney injury, heart attack, pulmonary edema, stroke, delirium, psychosis, rapid loss of consciousness, vomiting, and multiple organ failure.
- ADB-BUTINACA has resulted in multiple severe poisonings and death. Mixing synthetic cannabinoids with any drugs, particularly opioids or benzodiazepines, puts people at a higher risk of overdose.

### How to Respond

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

If you have suspicions about the content of a drug, contact the MADDS project for possible testing.

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](mailto:maddsbrandeis@gmail.com)

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