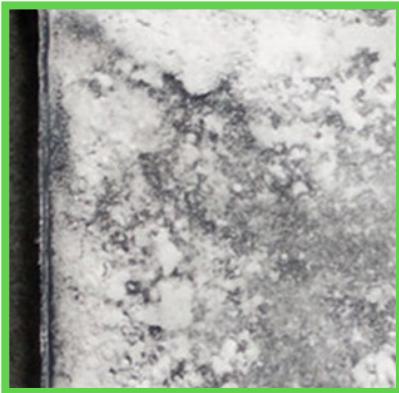


# Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS)

# STREET NARCOTICS ALERT



For more information and resources, scan:



## 4-Fluorofentanyl & Despropionyl

### 4-Fluorofentanyl Detected in Heroin/Fentanyl

From November 2020 to January 2021, multiple drug samples sold as fentanyl and heroin have been confirmed to contain these analogs and fentanyl. The samples were recovered in Lynn, Quincy, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Boston. Of 11 samples, 4 (36%) were associated with an overdose.

**4-Fluorofentanyl has a higher toxicity risk than fentanyl.** Time from consumption to sedating effects and life-threatening overdose is seconds to minutes. Because of the high potency of this drug, its inconsistent manufacture, and blending into consumed products without the knowledge of the people who use it, overdose risk is high.

### How to Identify 4-Fluorofentanyl Analogs

These substance appear as a white crystalline solid and blend into powdered street drugs. In MA, they have been found in powdered samples and the residue of cookers and cottons used for injection.

### Health effects

As a fentanyl, health effects of these analogs can include profound respiratory depression, slowed heart rate, low blood pressure, chest wall rigidity (“wooden chest”) and unresponsiveness.

### How to Respond

**Naloxone is effective at reversing overdoses caused by fentanyl analogs.** Administer naloxone (Narcan) as you would for any overdose and immediately summon medical attention.

### Police Encounters with Fentanyl

Fentanyl and its analogs are NOT readily absorbed through skin or clothing. Toxicity through inhalation may only result from very prolonged exposure in enclosed areas. Contact with fentanyl during routine police encounters does not lead to overdose and does not require additional precautions. Washing hands with soap and water is best practice after any handling and also prevents the spread of COVID-19.