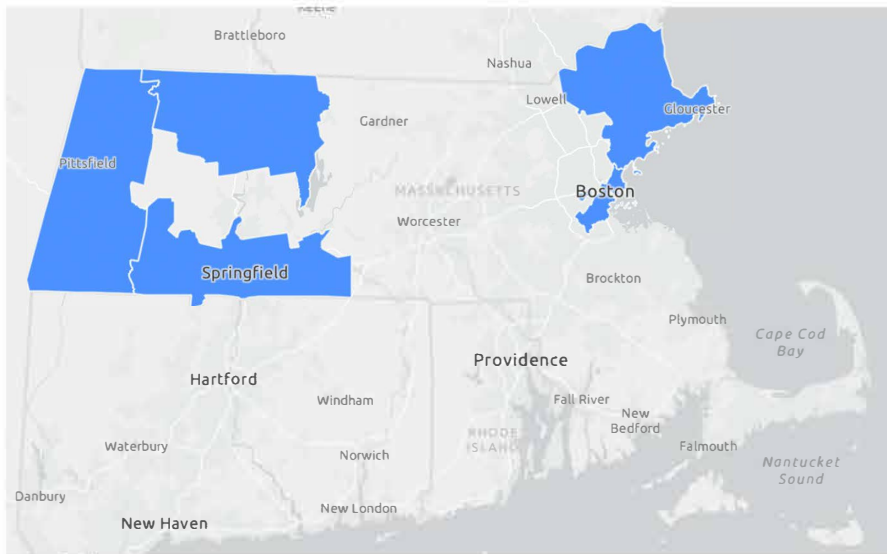




# Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS) Public Health Bulletin: Tinuvin (BTMPS) On The Rise October 2024

Recently, there has been a substantial increase of Tinuvin (BTMPS) being found in samples submitted for community-based drug checking in Massachusetts. Tinuvin is a chemical additive used to protect plastics in medical and food industries. Tinuvin is a calcium channel blocker which is a type of medicine that relaxes the heart and blood vessels, resulting in lower blood pressure. It is not an opioid but Tinuvin is commonly appearing in opioid samples, especially fentanyl. Sometimes it is the most abundant active part of the sample, other times it is seen in combination with nitazenes, xylazine, parafluorofentanyl, acetaminophen and lidocaine. From September 1 to October 25, 2024 MADDS tested 79 samples found to contain Tinuvin.

## Tinuvin (BTMPS) in Massachusetts by Lab Testing based on County of Drug Sample Origin



*The map shown is based on StreetCheck data from September 1, 2024 to October 25, 2024.*

*Instability in the drug supply can contribute to overdose risk. Use with others when possible, be mindful of your tolerance, use drug checking services and carry naloxone (Narcan).*

*If using alone consider calling Safe Spot: 1-800-972-0590, someone will stay on the phone with you while you are using drugs and can call for help in the event of an overdose*

MADDS data on use experience are limited, but people using drugs containing Tinuvin have reported a fishy or “shrimp ramen” smell, drugs feeling weak, drugs feeling weird or notably off, burning while injecting, a chemical smell when smoked, and nausea and vomiting. At this time, no samples submitted to MADDS containing Tinuvin have been linked to adverse health or overdose events.

Other possible effects and symptoms of Tinuvin use noted in other areas of the country include:

- Breathing issues: coughing, coughing up blood, shortness of breath
- Stomach issues: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps
- Skin and eye issues: vision issues, skin corrosion/damage, pain
- Nervous system issues: headache, dizziness, fatigue, muscle twitching, seizures
- Other signs: ear ringing, increased salivation, fluid in lungs

If you experience any of these symptoms and are concerned, contact Poison Control (24/7) at 1-800-222-1222 or seek medical attention.

**QUICK TIP:** Though Tinuvin is not an opioid, it is being found in opioids so giving naloxone (Narcan) in the event of an overdose is recommended. Provide rescue breathing, make sure the chest is rising and falling. Wait at least 3 minutes before redosing with naloxone if needed. Always call 911 whenever possible.

## Harm Reduction and Safety Tips for Tinuvin (BTMPS):

- Start low and go slow when using drugs that many contain Tinuvin
- Use with others if possible so someone is there to respond in the event of an overdose
- If using alone consider calling Safe Spot at 1-800-972-0590, someone will stay on the phone with you while you are using drugs and can call for help in the event of an overdose
- Carry naloxone (Narcan)
- Give naloxone in the event of an overdose, give rescue breaths, and call 911
- Get drugs tested prior to use if possible for better informed safety planning
- If you experience symptoms and are concerned, contact Poison Control (24/7) at 1-800-222-1222 or seek medical attention

## What are the Criteria to Submit a Sample for Drug Checking?

Samples submitted for community-based drug checking should be visible to the naked eye to be tested. The ideal size is equal to about half a grain to a full grain of rice.

### Samples that can be accepted:

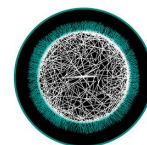
- Powders
- Rocks and crystals
- Pills
- Pipes that have been used once
- Cookers that have been used once
- Cottons that have been used once
- Baggies and wax folds with visible residue that haven't been ripped, cut or licked clean

### Samples that cannot be accepted:

- Pipes, cookers and cottons that have been used multiple times
- Plant materials do not test well (cannabis, mushrooms, etc.)
- Syringes or samples with visible blood due to safety concerns

If you are concerned about what's in your drugs, please contact your local harm reduction agency for more information about drug checking services. For information on MADDs partner locations and community-based drug checking services available in Massachusetts please visit [StreetCheck.org/find-drug-checking-services](https://StreetCheck.org/find-drug-checking-services) or scan the QR code below.

**Scan QR code for information  
on where to find drug checking  
services in Massachusetts  
and surrounding states**



**STREET CHECK  
COMMUNITY  
DRUG CHECKING**

\* All samples were provided by harm reduction programs or donated by police departments for MADDs 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).