

## [Substance Warning] BTMPS Detected in Marion County

January 13, 2025

We are writing to inform you of the detection of bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate (also referred to as “BTMPS”, and “Tinuvin 770”) through our syringe surveillance program. It was detected through SSP sites across Marion County.

### Background:

In September 2024, CFSRE released a data brief regarding BTMPS. It was detected in Philadelphia, California, Oregon, Michigan, as well as other states. BTMPS is used as a stabilizer to protect plastic materials. It was found with the following drugs: opioids, fentanyl, stimulants, and other adulterants, such as medetomidine and xylazine. For more information on BTMPS, please view the full CFRSE alert (attached).

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### Summary of Marion County Syringe Surveillance Data:

BTMPS was first detected in December 2024. In the month of December, a total of 209 syringes/paraphernalia were tested, and 3% (n=7) contained BTMPS. The syringes that contained BTMPS were collected from Safe Access and Support sites located in 46201 and 46203 zip codes. Among the syringes that contained BTMPS, the following substances were found: (see Figure 1)

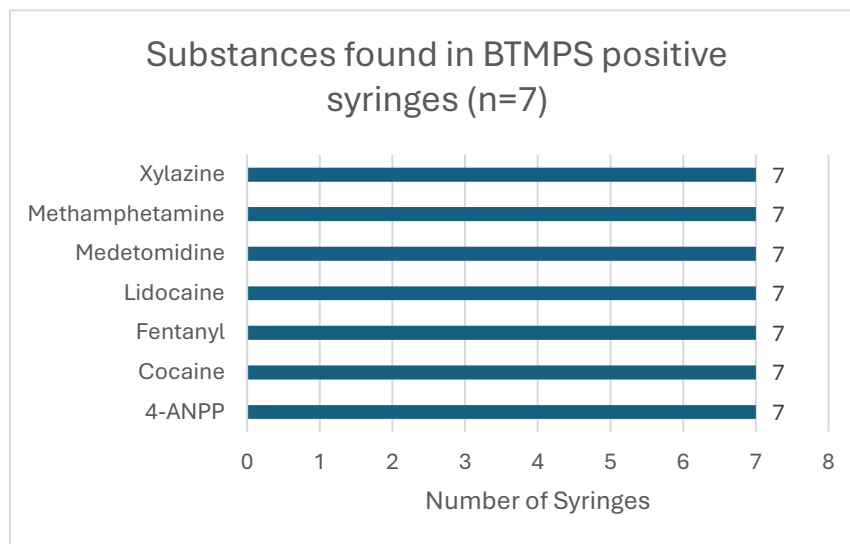


Figure 1: Substances found in BTMPS positive syringes, Source: IDOHL Syringe Surveillance Data

*\*Please note: Zip codes represent the SSP’s location and do not represent where the client lives.*

### Health Impacts:

It remains unclear how BTMPS affects humans. People who work in harm reduction have reported BTMPS having a strong chemical or “fishy” smell. According to the American College of Medical Toxicology, exposure to BTMPS can cause eye damage and skin irritation (fact sheet attached).<sup>1</sup>

## Recommendations:

- **Give Naloxone.** It is important to keep naloxone in hand and administer in the case of a suspected overdose. Naloxone sites can be found here <https://optin.in.gov/>
- **Utilize Fentanyl Test Strips.** Testing can assist in detecting the presence of fentanyl in drug samples. Testing strips are still encouraged, as BTMPS is often seen in combination with fentanyl.
- **Rescue Breaths.** Perform rescue breathing, preferably using a mouth shield.
- **Utilize the rescue position.** Lay the person on their side, bend their knee, and turn their face to the side to open airway and prevent choking. More information can be found here: <https://harmreduction.org/issues/overdose-prevention/overview/overdose-basics/responding-to-opioid-overdose/>
- **Inform** us if you notice any unusual overdose cases or other information that should be shared with partners.

## References:

1. American College of Medical Toxicology. (2024, November 18). Pittsburg Post Gazette: Industrial-grade chemical is showing up in street drugs. ACMT. <https://www.acmt.net/news/pittsburg-post-gazette-industrial-grade-chemical-is-showing-up-in-street-drugs/> Franklin, F., Teixeira de Silva, D., & Best, A. (2024, March 14). *Health Alert*. Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction. <https://hip.phila.gov/document/4281/PDPH-HAN-0440A-03.14.24-1.pdf/>
2. Walton, SE; Tracy, E; Shinefeld, J; Teixeira da Silva, D; Denn, MT; Quinter, AD; DeBord, JS; Logan, BK; Krotulski, AJ. (2024) BTMPS — NPS Discovery New Drug Monograph, Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, United States.