



Drug Alert Watch

BZP/TFMPP Combination Tablets Marketed as MDMA

U . S . D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

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SENTRY subscribers in Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas reported seizures of tablets containing the synthetic stimulant drug BZP (N-benzylpiperazine), TFMPP (1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine), and other substances, including caffeine. The tablets were marketed to abusers as MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy). A number of law enforcement agencies throughout the country also have made similar reports. Therefore, NDIC SENTRY is issuing this watch.



Tablets, particularly those containing BZP and TFMPP, are reportedly being sold as MDMA to unsuspecting abusers or, on occasion, as an alternative to MDMA. BZP and TFMPP, in combination, mimic the molecular mechanism of MDMA.¹ Moreover, smaller quantities of BZP can be used in combination with TFMPP without a reduction in overall stimulant effect. This directly results in increased profit potential for distributors.

BZP was originally developed as a parasite/worming treatment for cattle. It is generally sold under several street names, including A2, Benny Bear, Benny, Frenzy, Legal E, Legal X, Molly, and Nemesis. BZP is typically pressed into logo-embossed tablets or shaped into cartoon character tablets. It is also packaged as a powder in small glass or plastic vials, in small, plastic resealable bags known as button bags, and, occasionally, in capsules. BZP tablets are

¹ (U) Baumann, M. H., Clark, R. D., Budzynski, A. G., Partilla, J. S., Blough, B. E., and Rothman, R. B. N-Substituted Piperazines Abused by Humans Mimic Molecular Mechanism of 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, or 'Ecstasy'), *Neuropsychopharmacology* (2005) 30, 550-560.

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visually indistinguishable from traditional MDMA tablets and typically are pink, white, off-white, purple, orange, tan, and mottled orange-brown in color.

BZP abuse produces euphoria and cardiovascular effects similar to those of amphetamine, but much less severe. BZP abuse also results in decreased appetite; dilated pupils; and increased blood pressure, heart, and respiration rates. Other effects include anxiety, blurred vision, dizziness, and insomnia. Chronic BZP abuse can cause irregular heartbeat, delusions, hallucinations, and paranoia. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), youths and young adults are the primary abusers of BZP. Common oral dosages of BZP range from 20 to 200 milligrams, and effects generally last from 6 to 8 hours.

TFMPP produces mild hallucinations and side effects, including migraine headaches, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and “hangover” symptoms similar to those produced by alcohol. Side effects may be significantly exacerbated when the drug is consumed with alcohol. TFMPP is rarely sold as a single substance—it is commonly combined with BZP.

In March 2004, BZP was designated a Schedule I substance under the U.S. Controlled Substances Act. BZP is legal in Canada and is sometimes purchased in the country by abusers and/or distributors and smuggled into the United States. Additionally, BZP is sold in tablet and capsule forms on Internet sites and, according to the European Commission, in ‘smart’ and herbal shops. TFMPP is not scheduled under the federal Controlled Substances Act. However, some states have banned the drug.

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Photo Credit: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

POC: SENTRY Management Team, www.justice.gov/ndic/sentry or (814) 532-5888