

Drug Strategy Advisory | January 25, 2022***Presence of Etonitazene identified in sample of drugs seized by Thunder Bay Police***Purpose of this Advisory

We have been advised by the Thunder Bay Police Service that a **pink like rock substance** containing fentanyl has come back with a synthetic opioid also present. The substance was seized in **September 2021** and then tested by Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service; a **high potency synthetic opioid** known as **N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene** was present in the sample. It is the **first detection** of this substance of concern in the Thunder Bay area.

Etonitazene

Classified as a benzimidazole, N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene is a highly potent synthetic opioid which is **10- 20 times more potent than fentanyl**. Etonitazene produces effects similar to other opioids including euphoria, sedation, and respiratory depression. There **is a significant risk of overdose** due to its potency which may require greater than normal doses of naloxone in the event of an overdose.

There have been similar reports of N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene circulating in other parts of Ontario, as well as other provinces in Canada. A similar alert was reported by [Toronto Drug Checking Service](#) on May 6, 2021 and in Saskatoon by the [Prescription Review Program](#) on November 18, 2021.

Harm Reduction

- If you use drugs, start with a smaller amount (**start low, go slow**)
- Don't use drugs alone; use with someone you trust, **visit Path 525 @ NorWest CHC** or download the **Lifeguard Digital Health App**:



- Pick up a **FREE naloxone** kit from Superior Points or a pharmacy
- **Call 911** if your high feels unusual, or if you suspect someone is overdosing. The [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#) provides legal protection from drug-related charges for carrying drugs for personal use and other simple possession offences.
- Sign up for **e-mail opioid alerts** from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit:
<https://www.tbdhu.com/health-topics/alcohol-other-drugs/opioid-information-system>
- If you are experiencing a crisis: **Crisis Response** @ 807-346-8282 or **NAN HOPE** @ 1-844-626-4673

Additional information

<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/drug-analysis-service/analyzed-drug-report.html?p=ON&y=2021&q=Q3>

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2021/webinar-risk-novel-synthetic-opioids.pdf?sc_lang=en

<https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2021-12/CCSA-CCENDU-Nonmedical-Use-Benzodiazepines-Unregulated-Drug-Supply-Bulletin-2021-en.pdf>

https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2020-05/CCSA-CCENDU-Adulterants-Contaminants-Co-occurring-Substances-in-Drugs-Canada-Bulletin-2020-en_0.pdf