

MATTERS

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

Facts on Xylazine

What is Xylazine?

Xylazine, commonly referred to as “Tranq”, is a non-opioid, FDA-approved veterinary tranquilizer that is being added to illicit opioids, like fentanyl, to lengthen euphoric effects. Xylazine can increase the risk of a fatal overdose.

Is Xylazine Safe?



Xylazine is not a controlled substance and cannot be prescribed to humans due to its lack of safety.

What Are the Effects?

- ▶ Lowers blood pressure
- ▶ Decreases breathing rate
- ▶ Can cause heavy sedation
- ▶ Causes skin ulcers leading to serious wounds

Dangers of Xylazine



- ▶ No overdose reversal medication
- ▶ Increases chance of overdose
- ▶ Stays in body for up-to 8 hours

Scan to learn more
and request **FREE**
xylazine test strips



Xylazine can be deadly!



The CDC reported xylazine-involved overdose deaths in the United States rose from **102 to 3,468** in 2021.¹

Why is it Important?



Xylazine does not respond to naloxone. However, naloxone is recommended if you suspect a xylazine overdose since it is often mixed with opioids.

Harm Reduction Strategies



Use xylazine test strips to detect the presence of xylazine in a substance.



If you get a positive result for xylazine, **DO NOT** use the substance.



Always have naloxone (aka Narcan) ready and someone nearby.

Myth or Fact?

1 Wounds only come from injecting drugs - **MYTH.**

2 Xylazine is only found in certain parts of the United States - **MYTH.**

3 Xylazine can cause severe skin wounds - **FACT.**

4 Wounds cannot heal or be treated - **MYTH.**

1. Spencer M.R., Cisewski J.A., Warner M., & Garnett M.F. (2023, June). Drug overdose deaths involving xylazine: United States, 2018-2021. National Vital Statistics System Rapid Release. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr030.pdf>

