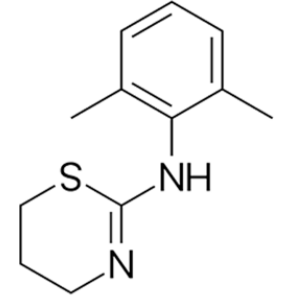


Xylazine is not an opioid.

Xylazine is a long acting veterinary sedative developed in the 1960s not approved for human use.



what is xylazine?

xylazine



zines about the drug supply



what is xylazine and why is it in the drug supply?

"Made me feel like, drowsy, like, I was like, sleepwalking, I don't know. It was weird." (P029)
"Like taking a sleeping pill or something." (P024)
"Interviewer: What was the feeling? Like woozy. [It was] no dope. I couldn't tell you what was in it."

testRI participants shared: xylazine can be hard to distinguish from fentanyl and other drugs. In the drug supply, it can be white or brown powder, mixed into pills, or in other forms, making it hard to identify based on appearance.

Wait.. why is it in the supply? Xylazine or often referred to as "tranq-dope" has been found in drug supply across North America. It is mostly appearing in the fentanyl supply but also in cocaine.



harm reduction & xylazine

When treating a skin infection possibly due to xylazine use:

- Do not inject at the site of infection
- Avoid direct pressure to the site if possible
- Keep the area clean and dry

If the area becomes more painful, hot, red, swollen, there is pus leakage, you develop a fever, or with any feelings of numbness please seek medical care right away.

Brought to you by testRI & the People, Place, and Health Collective at the Brown University School of Public Health. By: Claire Macon & Abdullah Shihpar All testRI work is on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Narragansett people.

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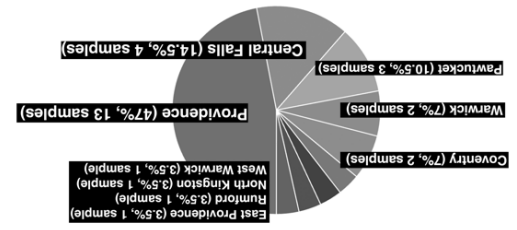
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Curious about what else we've found in the supply? Scan the QR code on the back to check out our results from what we have tested so far!

The other samples that contained xylazine were: dope with fentanyl (10.5%, 3 samples); crystal meth (7%, 2 samples); percoet (3.5%, 1 sample); crack (3.5%, 1 sample), and carfentanil (3.5%, 1 sample).

72% of the samples (20 out of 28 samples) that contained xylazine were sold as fentanyl.



Samples containing xylazine were from: We tested 61 samples from May - August 2022 and xylazine was found in 28 of those samples. Xylazine has been found in the local drug supplies in Rhode Island.

but is xylazine in Rhode Island?

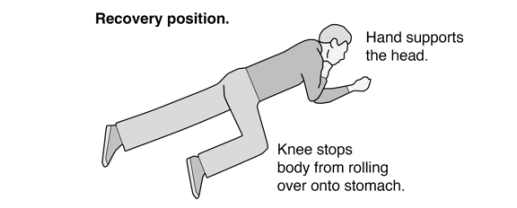
harm reduction & xylazine

Xylazine is relatively new to the supply and harm reduction is constantly evolving, below are some initial ways to mitigate risk when using drugs possibly contaminated with xylazine.

If xylazine is involved in an overdose the person may still appear sedated even after breathing returns.

- Check for normal breathing and pulse.
- Use naloxone if slowed or stopped breathing.

- Recovery position to keep the airway clear (place on side, hand supports the head, knee stops body from rolling onto stomach) rescue breaths are important if slowed or stopped breathing after naloxone



Content Warning for Next Page: Wounds and Skin Lesions!

Decreased breathing

Slow heart rate

Low blood pressure

Sedation, unresponsiveness

xylazine health effects

xylazine health effects

Can increase risk of overdose when used with other sedating drugs like opioids.



Image from: Reyes JC, Negrón JL, Colón HM, Padilla AM, Millán MY, Matos TD, Robles RR. The emerging of xylazine as a new drug of abuse and its health consequences among drug users in Puerto Rico. J Urban Health. 2012 Jun;89(3):519-26. doi: 10.1007/s11524-011-9662-6.

Injecting xylazine can cause skin lesions, abscesses, and cellulitis.

