



Substances Fact Sheet

Xylazine: "Tranq"

Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that has been found in illicit drug supplies. It is often used unknowingly when they believe they are using other drugs, most frequently fentanyl. It slows breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. While overdose reversal medications do not work on xylazine, it is recommended that it is given to individuals with suspected exposure because it is most often taken at the same time as an opioid such as fentanyl.

Xylazine: Veterinary tranquilizer - not a controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act

Usage / Quick Facts

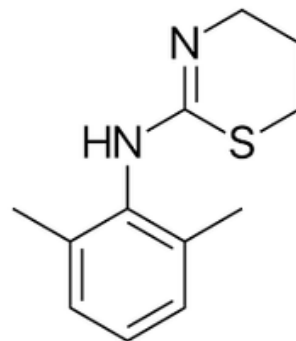
- Can be injected, snorted, swallowed, or inhaled
- Has been found in some illicit drug supplies, and is often used unknowingly when it is added to other drugs
- Most frequently added to fentanyl
- When combined with opioids Xylazine can be referred to as **"tranq dope"**, **"zombie drug"**, or **"sleep cut"**

What are the Effects?

- Central nervous system depressant
- Slows breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels
- Opioid reversal medications do not reverse the effects as it is not an opioid
 - However administering these medications is recommended because it is typically found in combination with other drugs, especially opioids
- Repeated use can cause painful skin and muscle sores that if left untreated can become infected and lead to patches of dead and dying tissue.
 - It has been reported that these wounds can happen even if the drug is not injected.
- Early research does not indicate that xylazine combined with opioids increases odds of fatal overdose.

What is the Prevalence of Xylazine?

- The DEA issued a public safety alert due to the widespread threat of fentanyl mixed with xylazine.
- The DEA lab reported in 2022 that approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine.
- From 2019-2022 xylazine detection more than doubled in 30 states according to data on drug seizures in those states.



Harm Reduction Measures

- Xylazine test strips are now commercially available and available at some harm reduction organizations.
- Monitor and treat wounds
- Carry overdose reversal medications.

Xylazine and Youth

Resource: <https://monitoringthefuture.org/data/bx-by/drug-prevalence/#drug=%22Any+Illicit+Drug%22>

- There is no current data on the prevalence of Xylazine use among youth
- However, as of the 2024 NIDA survey "Monitoring the Future" ~17.4% of youth in grades 8, 10, and 12 reported use of any illicit drug.
- With concerning trends of Xylazine being introduced into the drug supply, it is important to educate youth about the dangers of ingesting substances that could be contaminated with another substance.



National Institute on Drug Abuse: Xylazine