

XYLAZINE

What it is and why it is so dangerous?

WHAT IS XYLAZINE?

(pronounced: ZAI-luh-zeen)

- Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer
- Other names: tranq, tranq-dope, zombie drug
- Effects: sedation, slow heart rate and breathing, low blood pressure



HOW IS IT USED?

- Xylazine is added to fentanyl, heroin, and other substances because it is cheap, easy to obtain, and increases “the high”
- It is often added to other drugs without people knowing
- Xylazine Test Strips (XTS) are a drug testing tool used to detect the presence of xylazine in substances



WHY IS IT SO DANGEROUS?

- Xylazine mixed with opioids increases the risk of overdose and death
- The use of xylazine has also been associated with large, deep infectious skin lesions



OVERDOSES

- Naloxone (or Narcan) can reverse the effects of fentanyl and other opioid overdoses, but it has **NO EFFECT** on xylazine
- A person who overdoses on an opioid mixed with xylazine may remain unconscious even after administering naloxone
- If someone does not respond to naloxone, check for breathing and place them in a recovery position (on their side) and get medical help



DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine

“Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier,” said DEA Administrator Milgram. “DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine.” (Dec. 2022)

Sources:

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7226a4.htm>

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): <https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-reports-widespread-threat-fentanyl-mixed-xylazine>



www.westbrookpartnersforprevention.org

