



# FYI: XYLAZINE

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**NOT  
RESPONSIVE  
TO  
NALOXONE**

**Xylazine  
Slang Terms:**  
Tranq  
Tranq Dope  
Sleep Cut  
Anestesia de Caballo



## What is Xylazine?

- A non-opioid tranquilizer used as a sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant properties.
- Used on large animal species such as cattle and horses to perform diagnostic and surgical procedures, relieve pain, or act as a local anesthetic.

Sources: [nida.nih.gov/](https://nida.nih.gov/) , [deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/](https://deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/)

## How is Xylazine Used?

- Added to street level drugs such as fentanyl to enhance the high
- Increases the duration and euphoric sensation.
- Users are known to seek Xylazine laced drugs from dealers
- Known to be present throughout NJ drug environment including: cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine

Sources: [nida.nih.gov/](https://nida.nih.gov/)

## Effects of Use and Abuse:

### Side Effects

- Side effects for human ingesting include severe hypertension and central nervous system depression leading to possible respiratory failure
- Additional side effects include:
  - Amnesia
  - Drowsiness
  - Slow breathing
  - Slow heart rate

### Long-Term/Serious Side Effects

- Near fatal form of low iron deficiency/anemia resulting in multiple blood transfusions.
- Severe wounds/abscess that turn into serious infections exposing tissue/bone regardless of how people use the drug.

Sources: <https://www.cnn.com/>, [www.substanceusephilly.com/tranq](https://www.substanceusephilly.com/tranq), [www.npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

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## Risks of abusing Xylazine:

- CDC: Among 45,676 overdose deaths reported to SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) during 2019, Xylazine was detected in approximately 2% and Xylazine was listed as a cause of death in 64.3% of deaths in which it was detected. The majority of Xylazine-involved deaths were among males (73.1%), non-Hispanic White persons (75.4%), and from states in the Northeast Census region (67.0%). Among deaths involving Xylazine, one or more other drugs, particularly illicit drugs, were also listed as a cause of death. Over 98% of deaths where Xylazine was detected had fentanyl (including analogs) listed as a cause of death.

**Source:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) September 2021

- A study published in the Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence found Xylazine was involved in 0.36% of overdose deaths in 2015. By 2020, the drug was linked to 6.7% of overdose deaths, with the highest percentages in the North East.

**Source:** [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) March 2021

- “We’re certainly seeing a lot more wounds, and we’re seeing some severe wounds,” said Dr. Joe D’Orazio, the Director of Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. D’Orazio and his colleagues are still trying to figure out why wounds are worse with Xylazine use. It could be that they don’t heal as quickly because Xylazine reduces blood flow. Some patients also report more skin picking with Xylazine.

**Source:** [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

- Xylazine surged first in some areas of Puerto Rico and then in Philadelphia, where it was found in 91% of opioid samples in the most recent reporting period. Data from January to mid-June shows that Xylazine was in 28% of drug samples tested by the Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream, a state-funded network of community drug-checking and advisory groups that uses mass spectrometers to let people know the contents of the bags or pills purchased on the street.

**Source:** [khn.org](http://khn.org) *Kaiser Health News*

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*Any questions about this product should be directed to the NY/NJ HIDTA New Jersey Intelligence Center at 973-776-7070.*