

XYLAZINE: KNOW THE FACTS

What is xylazine (zye-luh-zeen)?

Xylazine (also called “Tranq”), is a powerful tranquilizer or sedative, used on animals. It is not approved or safe for use with humans, but has now entered the local drug supply, adding to the overdose crisis.

Xylazine is not an opioid like fentanyl or “oxy”, but it has serious effects like increasing the risk of overdose and producing severe skin infections.

Xylazine is often found mixed (“cut”, “laced”, or “contaminated”) with other drugs, especially fentanyl.

You may not know if a drug contains xylazine. You can’t tell by sight, smell, or taste—but testing drugs can help you detect if xylazine is present.



Scan to find free naloxone (Narcan®) and other life-saving resources.

Stay informed through drug checking: Xylazine test strips can help detect whether xylazine is present in a drug.

Michigan.gov/SUD

Materials adapted from Wayne County Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services, “End Overdose Wayne” campaign (2026).

How is Xylazine Harmful?

Xylazine can lead to...

Increased risk of overdose.

Deep sedation/sleepiness, blackouts, and loss of consciousness.

Slow or stopped breathing.

Drop in blood pressure and heart rate.

Severe skin wounds that can spread and worsen quickly.

This can happen whether xylazine is injected, snorted, or inhaled.

Overdose Prevention Tips

Never use alone.

Carry naloxone (Narcan®). Always have it on hand/nearby and know how to use it. Show friends and family how to use it too. Drugs that contain xylazine, often contain fentanyl, too.

Use test strips to help detect fentanyl and xylazine, but remember that no test is 100% accurate.

Avoid mixing drugs. Mixing drugs, especially with alcohol or “benzos” increases the risk of overdose.

Get care for skin sores, right away.

How to Stop an Overdose:



1 Shake and shout



2 Call 9-1-1



Give naloxone (Narcan®)

Peel: Peel back the package to remove the nasal spray. Hold the spray with your thumb on the plunger.

Place: Place the tip of the nasal spray into either nostril until your fingers are touching their nose.

Press: Press the plunger firmly in to release the entire dose into the nose.



Keep awake and breathing

If breathing: Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.

If not breathing: Give rescue breaths and CPR if comfortable.



Give naloxone (Narcan®) again every 2 minutes if no response

If not breathing, give more doses of naloxone (Narcan®) using a new spray every 2 minutes, switching nostrils, until help arrives.