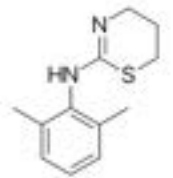


xylazine

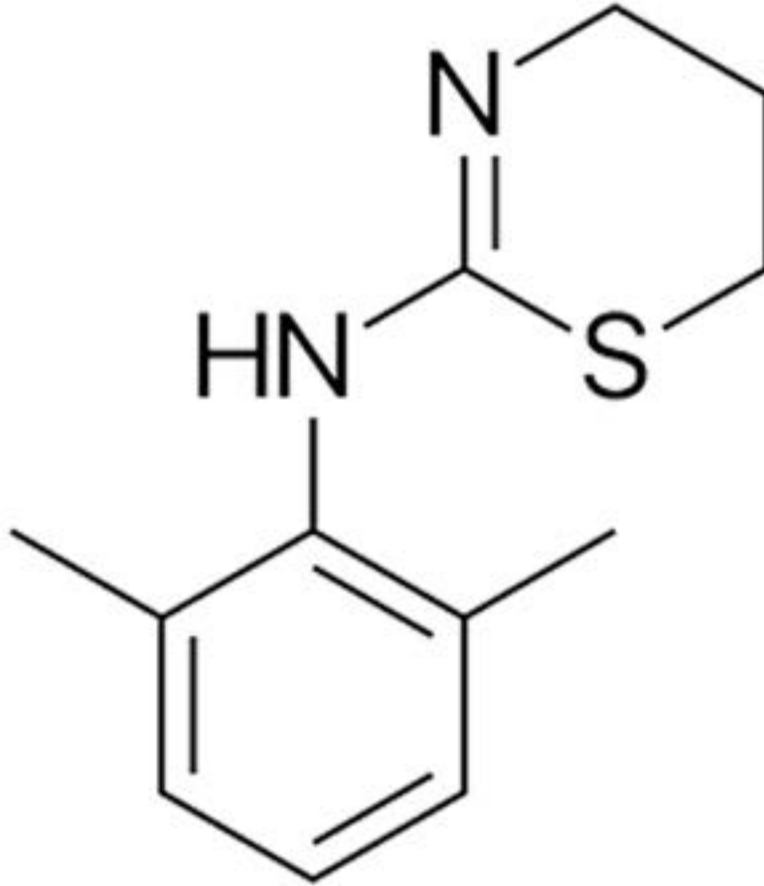


zines about the drug supply



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

what is xylazine?



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

Xylazine is not an opioid.

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.



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.

testRI participants shared:



“[It was] no dope. I couldn’t tell you what was in it. [Interviewer: What was the feeling?] Like woozy. Like taking a sleeping pill or something.” (P024)

*“Made me feel like, **drowsy, like, I was like, sleepwalking,** I don’t know. It was weird.” (P029)*

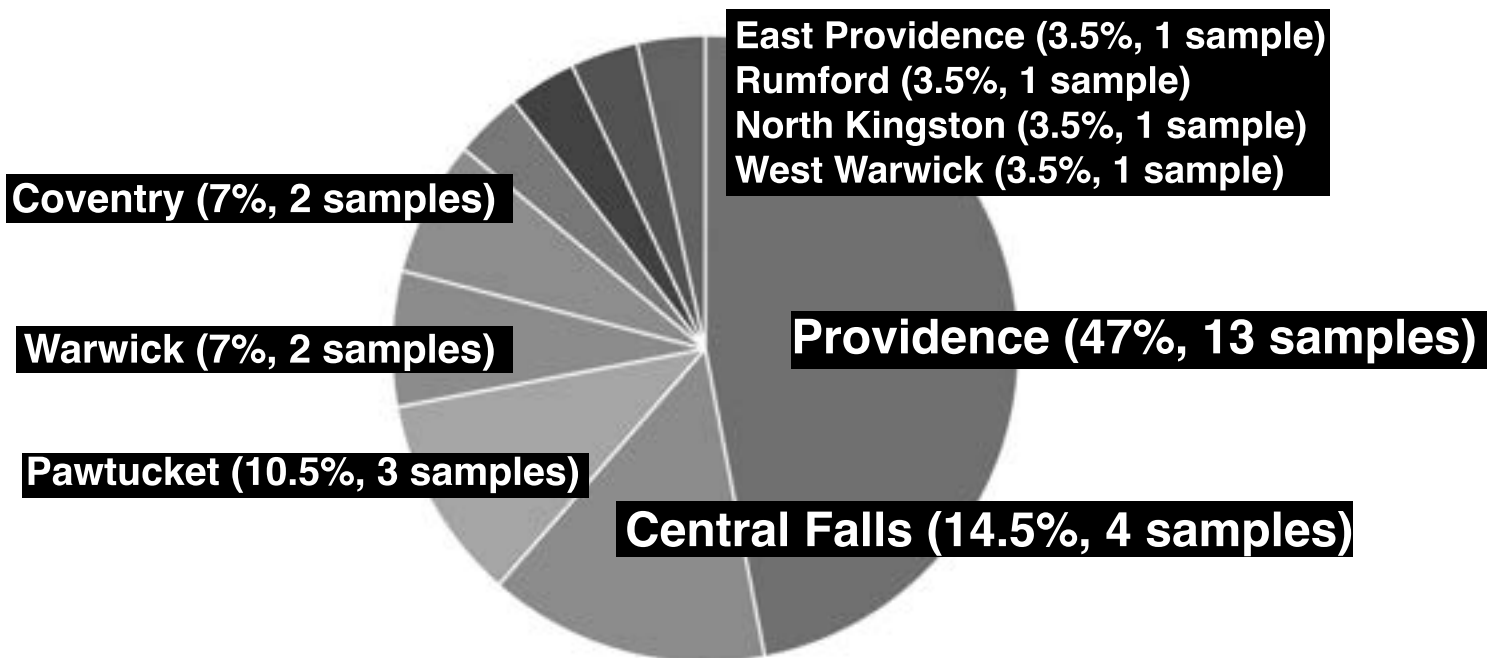


but is xylazine in Rhode Island?

Xylazine has been found in the local drug supplies in Rhode Island.

We tested 61 samples from May - August 2022 and xylazine was found in 28 of those samples.

Samples containing xylazine were from:



72%

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

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

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!

xylazine health effects

Sedation,
unresponsiveness



Low blood pressure



Slow heart rate



Decreased breathing



**Content Warning for Next Page:
Wounds and Skin Lesions!**

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.

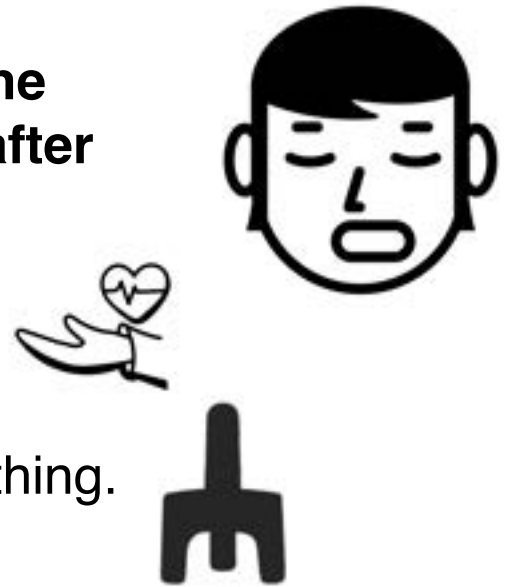
Injecting xylazine can cause skin lesions, abscesses, and cellulitis.

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.

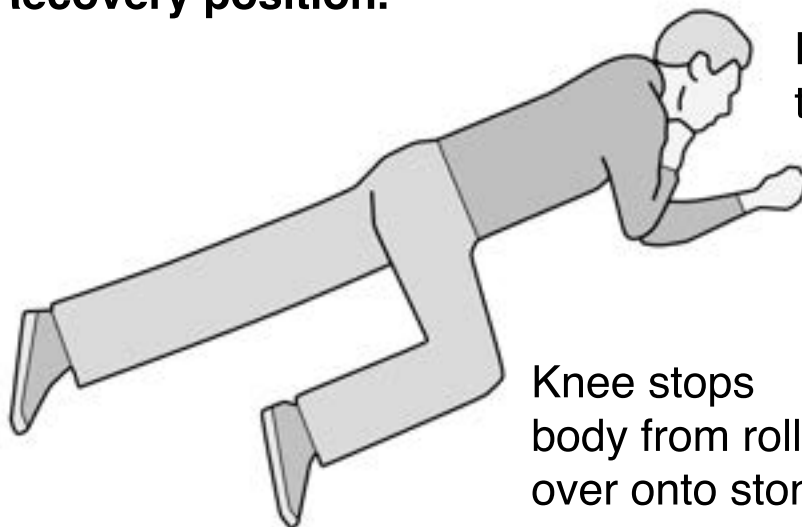
If xylazine is involved in an overdose the person may still appear sedated even after breathing returns.

- 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

Recovery position.



Hand supports the head.

Knee stops body from rolling over onto stomach.

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 Shihipar

All testRI work is on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Narragansett peoples.

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