



Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS) Street Drugs Alert: Xylazine

Xylazine is on the rise in fentanyl & heroin (dope)

- The animal sedative xylazine has been found in dope samples more and more across Massachusetts.*
- **Xylazine is a long-acting tranquilizer, but it is not an opioid.** Some samples had as much xylazine as dope or more xylazine than dope.

Nodding out from xylazine may look like an opioid overdose, but it won't respond to naloxone. If someone is breathing but doesn't respond when you try to wake them, **watch their breathing to make sure they're getting enough oxygen. Give naloxone, start rescue breaths, and call for help** if their breathing is raspy or their skin is ashy or pale.

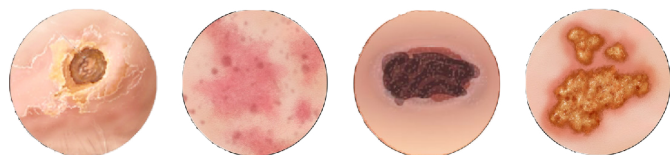
Xylazine is a health hazard

Xylazine may lead to

- **Extreme sleepiness**
- **Nodding out for long periods of time**
- **Slower heart rate**
- **A higher chance of overdose or death** if used with dope and other downers
- **Sores and serious infections**, even in places on your body away from where you inject
- **Serious injury** if you pass out and lay in one position for too long
- **Getting too hot or too cold** if you pass out outside

Some people who submitted samples with xylazine said it "made me sleep weird"; "put me out for 6 hours"; "made me pass out and I woke with vomit on me"; and "skin on fire, teeth felt like they were going to fall out."

How xylazine can affect your skin



Skin ulcers

Rash

Dying skin

Pus



Xylazine has been found in street dope powder and in fake pain pills.

Harm reduction and risk of overdose

- **USE WITH OR AROUND OTHER PEOPLE.** People using together should take turns so they don't overdose at the same time.
- If someone overdoses, **CALL FOR HELP AND GIVE NALOXONE** until they start breathing regularly, even if they're still passed out. If someone has passed out but is still breathing, put them in the recovery position (below) and watch their breathing.



If someone passes out after using, but is still breathing **put them in the recovery position**, as shown here, and **call for help!**

- **USE A STERILE SYRINGE** and clean your skin every time you inject to prevent infection. Keep an eye on injection sites and other sores. Get medical help if the sore gets red/swollen or if you have a fever.
- It's hard to say what's in street drugs. **Check with your local harm reduction program** for naloxone, wound care help, wound care kits, safer use supplies, advice, and drug checking with MADDS.



MADDS is a state-funded collaboration between Brandeis University researchers, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, various town police departments, and local harm reduction agencies. [Click here](#), scan the QR code, or email us at maddsbrandeis@gmail.com for more information.