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.

**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.

- **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.