

What is Xylazine?

Sedative used in veterinary medicine and **not approved** for human use

Individuals are known to inject, snort and smoke xylazine

Sometimes called "tranq" or "zombie drug"

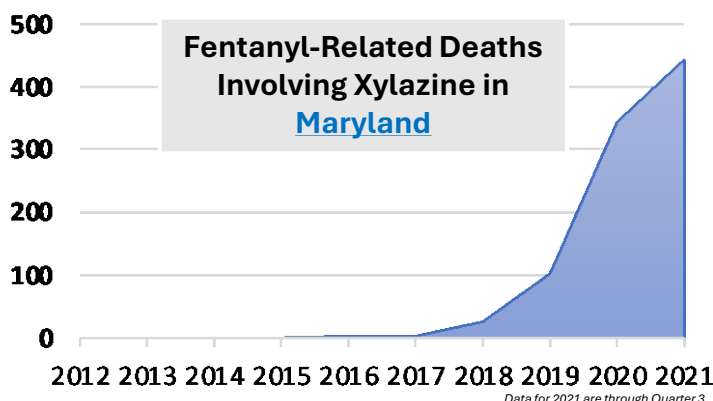
Not an opioid but is **commonly** added to street fentanyl

Results in a longer-lasting high when mixed with fentanyl

Prevalence

In 2022, xylazine was present in 11% of overdose deaths in the United States.

Most **common** in Philadelphia (25.8% of deaths), **Maryland (19.3%)** and Connecticut (10.2%).



Known Harms

Results in a sedated state that remains even after naloxone administration

Associated with **skin injuries** that rapidly progress into wounds if untreated

Chronic use can cause unique **withdrawal** symptoms, including anxiety and agitation

Wound Care Billing and Coding

Proper management of xylazine-associated wounds is critical to patient care.

There are new ICD-10-CM codes for xylazine, which will both support providers in seeking reimbursement for treating xylazine-related harms and build another means by which the prevalence of xylazine may be understood. The new codes include:

T65.841 (Toxic effect of xylazine, accidental (unintentional));

T65.842 (Toxic effect of xylazine, intentional self-harm);

T65.843 (Toxic effect of xylazine, assault);

T65.844 (Toxic effect of xylazine, undetermined)

Please utilize the new codes when treating xylazine wounds.

How Can Providers Help?

Education: Providers and [patients](#) need to be made aware of xylazine and its risks. Visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [Maryland Department of Health](#) for additional resources.

Wound Care: Early detection and intervention of skin injuries is key to mitigating the formation of large ulcers or wounds from xylazine. Free wound care supplies and services can be accessed through [opioid-associated disease prevention and outreach programs](#) across Maryland. In-depth guidance on xylazine-associated wounds can be found [here](#).

Harm Reduction Services: Resources for [drug testing, wound care and care coordination](#) are available via the Maryland Department of Health

Overdose Response: Use naloxone with any suspected drug overdose. It is crucial to remember that **response may require additional supportive care** (e.g., rescue breathing, glucose management).

For Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs and Harm Reduction Providers: For a full list of approved suppliers and current pricing for naloxone, fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips and other harm reduction supplies, see the [Maryland Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs \(OADPOP\) Vendor Supply Guide 2026](#).

For additional in-depth guidance, please refer to the Maryland Department of Health's informational resources about xylazine use statewide:

<https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov/xylazine/>.

Reach out to MACS with questions related to the treatment of xylazine use and related wounds along with any general support requests when working with patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain.

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