



# XYLAZINE/ "TRANQ DOPE"

## What is Xylazine ("Tranq Dope")?

- Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer cut in fentanyl and heroin (sometimes called tranq dope).
- Xylazine is not an opioid.
- Xylazine is a sedative that can last for many hours;
- It can make people unconscious and lead to low blood pressure, a slow heart rate, and slow breathing.

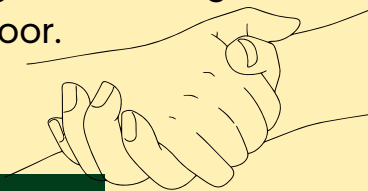
\*Xylazine (in fentanyl) has spread westward from the Northeast U.S. and been involved in some overdose deaths in Missouri in 2021 and 2022.\*

## Risks associated with Tranq Dope

- When combined with opioids, Xylazine leads to an increased risk of overdose.
- **Naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse the effects of Xylazine.**
- Injecting Xylazine may increase the risk of skin ulcers and other wounds that spread and worsen quickly. Seek medical care if you have wounds.

## Safer use of Tranq Dope

- If smoking, avoid the first hit. Xylazine has a low burn rate and will be destroyed by the heat.
- Use tranq somewhere you won't fall and hurt yourself.
- Ask others how the drug has been making other people feel before buying and using it yourself.
- If you think there is tranq in your dope, tell others so they know to be careful.
- If injecting, carefully clean the injection site with alcohol swabs and use sterile syringes (don't share or re-use) to reduce risk of infection.
- Start with a low dose - you can always do more, you can't go back and do less.
- Tell someone you are using; avoid using alone or behind a locked door.
- Carry naloxone.



## What to do in a Tranq Dope Overdose

- Administer naloxone. It won't reverse Xylazine's sedating effects, but it will stop an opioid overdose if that is also going on.
- When responding to a Xylazine-involved overdose with naloxone, the person's breathing may return but they may still be sedated due to the Tranq.
- Stay with the person, monitor their breathing, and keep them in a safe place.
- If possible, seek medical assistance if you suspect a Xylazine-involved overdose.

