

Overview

The drug supply in the United States is increasingly adulterated with synthetic opioids and other toxic substances. Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that is often found in combination with fentanyl, other opioids, and psychostimulants (e.g., cocaine). It can cause respiratory depression, slowed heart rate, and increased risk of overdose death as well as skin ulcers and abscesses.

Webinar

Illicit Drug Supply: Fentanyl and Xylazine
Richard Rawson, PhD
UVM CORA Community Rounds Workshop Series Session

Email CORA@uvm.edu to view the
recording

Resources

- Drug Enforcement Administration: [The Growing Threat of Xylazine and its Mixture with Illicit Drugs](#)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): [Xylazine](#)
- New York State Department of Health: [Xylazine: What Clinicians Need to Know](#)
- Philadelphia Department of Health: [Health Update – Xylazine \(Tranq\) Exposure Among People Who Use Substances in Philadelphia](#)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): [Fentanyl and Xylazine Test Strips](#)
- The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education: [Characterization of Xylazine Test Strips for Use in Drug Checking](#)

Journal Articles

- Journal of Addiction Medicine: [Widespread Distribution of Xylazine Detected Throughout the United States in Healthcare Patient Samples](#)
- The American Journal on Addictions: [Characteristics of Xylazine-Related Deaths in West Virginia – Xylazine-Related Deaths](#)

Videos and Podcasts

- Medscape: [What's Best for Treating Patients Who Are on Xylazine or 'Tranq'?](#)
- Policy Research Associates, Inc.: [HHRC Webinar: Xylazine: An Introduction for Service Providers Working with Unhoused Individuals](#)
- Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Technical Assistance (RCORP-TA): [Rural Roads – 08: Xylazine with Dr. C](#)

If you cannot access any of the recommended materials, please reach out to cora@uvm.edu. Content reviewed [12/16/2025].

As the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) - Rural Center of Excellence (RCOE) on SUD Treatment, University of Vermont provides access to a wide range of resources on relevant topics. Inclusion on this document does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by The University of Vermont Center on Rural Addiction RCOE on SUD Treatment or the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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