



EPI ALERT: news, updates, and trends



Xylazine found in one-third of fatal opioid overdoses in Philadelphia

Xylazine — a non-opioid sedative, muscle relaxant and analgesic — is not a DEA-scheduled drug and only has FDA approval for veterinary use,



31%

The percentage of fatal overdose cases in Philadelphia with detectable levels of xylazine rose from 2% to 31% during a 10-year period



76%

In 2019, 76% of cases who tested positive for xylazine were predominately men, 65% were non-Hispanic white and 47% were aged 35 to 54 years.

Q: What are the signs of xylazine use?

A: Signs of xylazine use include central nervous system depression, low blood pressure, reduced breathing, bradycardia; there has been association with skin ulcers.

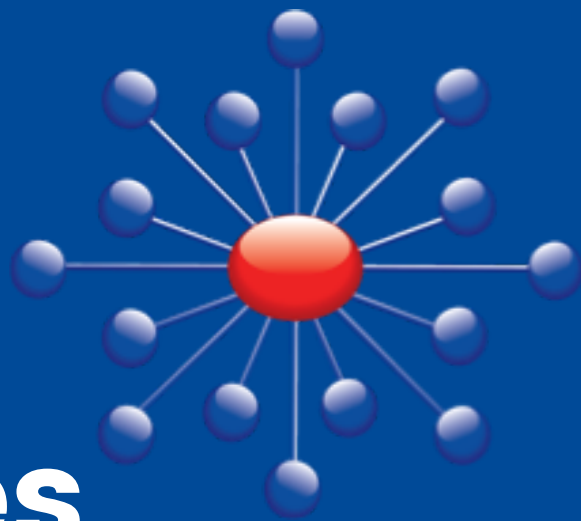
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33536231/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33031124/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22391983/>

Special thanks to Neeraj Chhabra, MD for sharing their expertise!

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