MACS
Maryland Addiction Consultation Service

Xylazine and Opioid Use
FACT SHEET

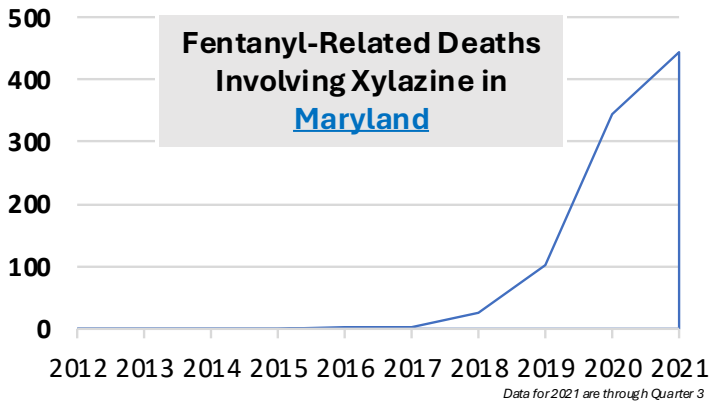
What is Xylazine?

- 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

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 **syringe service 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 additional in-depth guidance, please refer to the Maryland Department of Health's informational resources about xylazine use statewide: https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov/xylazine/.