

Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes – 6/9/2023

Phillip Titterington – Medina County ADAMH Board

- State budget updates
 - Senate will vote soon on their version of the budget bill, then it goes to joint finance.
 - There are concerns about potential cuts to behavioral health services.
 - Line item 421 is funding for the ADAMH Board's continuum of care requirements.
 - Over the last 10 years, the ADAMH Board's responsibilities have increased but funding has remained flat.
- Human Services Levy- Medina County ADAMH Board, Medina County Office for Older Adults, Medina County Job & Family Services
 - This is a levy renewal year, and the campaign has started.
 - PAC meetings are ongoing, and a fundraiser will be held in the fall.
- Youth Resiliency & Counseling Center (YRCC)
 - The YRCC is open.
 - The center is geared towards youth and families.
 - They provide trauma-informed counseling services.
- OneOhio Recovery Foundation
 - There are several regions involved and we are in region 19.
 - Stefanie Robinson and Phillip Titterington are on the technical support committee, which is looking at creating an RFP process.
 - Approximately \$2.1 million will be received.
 - They are hopeful that more details will come out over the next several months.

Kurt McCune – Drug Task Force

- 85 arrests in 2023, which is a 67% increase from the previous year.
- Seizures of meth and cocaine have increased.
- A deflection program was started with Alternative Paths, which allows low level offenders to engage in treatment in lieu of being charged in the legal system.
- MX908 drug testing pilot program.
 - Have seen a reduction in the lab backlog.
 - Received the device in October and 700 drug tests have been completed. Instead of waiting months, they get instant results.
- Completed drug takeback day in April and 2,100 pounds of medication was collected and disposed of.
- One case of Xylazine was noted, and several other cases were found to have Xylazine mixed with other drugs.

Stefanie Robinson – Hope Recovery Community (HRC)

- Recently returned from the state conference, and there is lots of chatter about the good work happening here in Medina County.
- Been to several conferences around the state and country.
- Averaging over 70 people per day visiting the Medina HRC location.
- The Recovery Farm has two goats, 12 chickens, three beehives, a 20,000 foot garden space, and an orchard. Food that is grown will support feeding medina county.
- A curriculum is being built, and will include: Safety, Farm 101, Goat Care, and other curricula.
- Seven men in recovery individuals reside at the farm house right now.
- Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR)'s Recovery Town Hall in April had great feedback.
- Launched a Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative, and are spreading the word on this.
- Upcoming events:
 - Aug 31- Overdose Awareness Day event.
 - Sept 16- Fifth annual Ride for Recovery, being held in Wadsworth at Radiant Life Church.
- More people are seeking help for drug and alcohol use.

Gail Houk – Alternative Paths

- Total referrals in 2023, 616.
- Community referrals in 2023, 47.
- Review of 2023:
 - The Medina County Opiate Response Team made contact with 96% of referrals.
 - The Medina County Opiate Response Team made contact with 62% individuals from community referrals.
- Attended Opiate and Other Drugs Conference.
- The Opiate Response Team has done a great deal of community outreach by attending a variety of community and school events.
- LOSS Team (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors)
 - 29 total response since team started two years ago. Program funded by the ADAMH Board.
 - Spikes found in August and November. No concrete thoughts on why this happening but looking into it.
 - Trending with male and older male population.
 - Gun is most prominent method with males.
 - Responded to several non-suicide fatality situations.
 - A small spike in youth during the beginning of this year.

Michael Metcalf, Holly Phillips, & Rebecca Parkhurst – Medina County Health Department

- Presentation on Xylazine.
- See slides for presentation information.

Krista Wasowki – Medina County Health Department

- We are working through the logistics of planning to start distributing fentanyl test strips.
- More information to come. There should be more information available at our next OTF meeting in September.

Community Questions

- How do we track the use of Narcan?
 - EMS tracks. Health Department collects data on usage when kits are distributed, but we feel that usage is definitely underreported because of the multiple points people can get kits.
- Next meeting is September 22, 2023

Xylazine Quick Facts

Holly Phillips, MSN, RN

Becca Parkhurst, OCPSA, CHES

Mike Metcalf, MPH



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Outline

What it is
Health Effects
Identification
Trends
Response

- 1 What it is
- 2 Health Effects
- 3 Identification
- 4 Trends
- 5 Overdose Response

What is Xylazine?

What is Xylazine?

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Non-opioid tranquilizer

- Used in veterinary settings as a sedative, anesthetic, muscle relaxant for animals
- Approved for use in animals in 1972, never has been approved for humans (due to serious side effects)

Onset of symptoms in minutes which can last 8 hours or longer

Often added to illicit opioids, including fentanyl, to lengthen the euphoric effects of fentanyl.

What is Xylazine?

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Other commonly used names:

- Tranq
- Tranq dope

Is a Central Nervous System (CNS) depressant

- Drowsiness, slow breathing, low heart rate, and dangerously low blood pressure.

Health Effects

Short Term

- Bradycardia (slow heart rate)
- Blurred vision
- Staggering
- Respiratory depression (breathing slowed or stopped)
- Hypotension (low BP)
- Hypothermia (drop in body temperature)
- Hyperglycemia (high blood glucose levels)
- Severe withdrawal symptoms
- Miosis (pinpoint pupils)
- Coma
- Death

Long Term

- Dependency/Addiction Concerns
- Withdrawals
 - agitation
 - vision changes
 - disabling migraines
 - severe anxiety
- Will undermine any efforts to treat an ongoing opioid use disorder (OUD)
- Skin ulcers
 - Can be other areas besides injection site
 - Risk of infection
 - Complications: necrosis leading to amputation (related to vasoconstriction)
 - Wound management and antibiotics as needed

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How to Identify It

Identifying it

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What does it look like?

- Liquid solution can be salted or dried into a powder
- White or brown powder – usually mixed in with powders or pressed pills
- Hard to identify on its own
- Can be injected, snorted, swallowed, or inhaled

Test Strips

BTNX (biotech company): produces a test strip to detect xylazine (around \$2 per strip)

12,500 xylazine testing strips recently purchased and distributed by the Cuyahoga County ADAHMS Board



Xylazine has been found in powder residue and counterfeit pain pills.

Identifying it

Routine tox screens do not catch xylazine

- Can be picked up in a comprehensive toxicology screen – gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

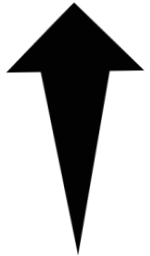
Hard to test for due to short half-life of 25-50 minutes

The major bio-transformed metabolite is 2,6-dimethylaniline (DMA).

Trends

Notable Trends

Ohio overdose fatalities with xylazine have been increasing since 2019



- According to Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC), some crime labs in Ohio estimate that 25% to 30% of today's fentanyl cases also include xylazine
- Xylazine related overdoses are likely underreported due to lack of testing



In April 2023, the White House designated xylazine as an “emerging drug threat”, but has not yet classified it as a controlled substance nationally

Notable Trends



Ohio has classified xylazine as a Schedule III drug as of March 2023

- "Scheduling xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance will allow for more robust testing and will make the sale and trafficking of xylazine for illicit use a criminal offense"



Most of the supply is coming from the flow of global illicit drug trade, not from veterinary supply



Low cost and undetectability in tox screen makes it more attractive to drug traffickers

Responding to an Overdose

Immediate Overdose

- Identify overdose
- Call 911
- Give Naloxone for any overdose
 - 99.2% of the time fentanyl is involved in fatal overdose that include xylazine
- Provide rescue breathing/CPR as needed
- Patient might start breathing, but not be alert due to xylazine sedation. Continue to monitor breathing and evaluate if more naloxone is needed
- Stay with them till EMS arrives

Clinical Overdose Response

- Review clinical guidelines in resources section
- Antidote is not approved in humans yet
- Treat xylazine withdrawal symptoms simultaneously with opioid withdrawal symptoms
 - Some case studies suggest benzodiazepines and/or alpha-2 adrenergic agonists, clonidine, dexmedetomidine, tizanidine, guanfacine

Wound Care

- Avoid alcohol and hydrogen peroxide
- Clean wounds with soap (if available) and bottled/tap water or saline
- Cover with a non-adherent dressing (Xeroform[®]) covered by an absorbent one
- Keep skin around the wound clean of drainage and moisturized (Vitamin A+D ointment)
- Goal for wound bed: keep moist (helps dead skin soften/fall on its own) OR debridement
- Evaluate need for Antibiotics
- Manage pain

Summary

Summary

- Xylazine has no FDA approved uses for humans, only animals.
- Xylazine is increasingly present in the drug supply, especially in fentanyl and heroin
- While effects are similar to opioids, it is NOT an opioid. Naloxone is not an antidote for xylazine, but is still recommended to give for any overdose of unknown cause alongside supportive care (CPR, 911, etc)
- Routine toxicology screens won't catch xylazine
- Effects can last 8 hours or longer
- Ohio has classified xylazine as a schedule III drug as of March 2023

Resources

- [Xylazine: What Clinicians Need to Know \(ny.gov\)](#)
- [Xylazine one-pager draft \(harmreduction.org\)](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs/xylazine/faq.html>
- [Xylazine Quick Guide for People Who Use Drugs — NEXT Distro](#)
- [Xylazine — Substance Use Philly](#)
- [xylazine-update-for-providers_community_july-2022.pdf \(brandeis.edu\)](#)
- [Michigan Poison Control Center.](#)

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- [Xylazine: What Clinicians Need to Know \(ny.gov\)](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs/xylazine/faq.html>
- [Ohio - Governor issues emergency classification of Xylazine](#)
- [xylazine-update-for-providers_community_july-2022.pdf \(brandeis.edu\)](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Harm Reduction - Xylazine Test Strips](#)
- [https://hip.phila.gov/document/2524/PDPH-HAN Alert 1 Xylazine 03.16.2022.pdf/](https://hip.phila.gov/document/2524/PDPH-HAN_Alert_1_Xylazine_03.16.2022.pdf)
- [Xylazine test strips available to help users check for animal sedative in drug supply | CNN](#)