Common Street Drugs

A quick guide to understanding dangerous drugs

Fentanyl - Synthetic Opioid

Image source: DEA

- Binds to the brain's opioid receptors
- 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine and about 50 times stronger than heroin
- Often mixed with other drugs, increasing the risk of overdose
- Light-colored powder, pills resembling prescription opioids, patches or lozenges

Street Names

- China White, Apache, Dance Fever, Goodfella, TNT, Murder 8, King Ivory, Green Beans, Fent and Blues

Human consumption

- Schedule II controlled substance in the U.S., available by prescription only
- Common usage: Injection, inhalation, ingestion, or snorting
- Administered medically in controlled doses for pain management

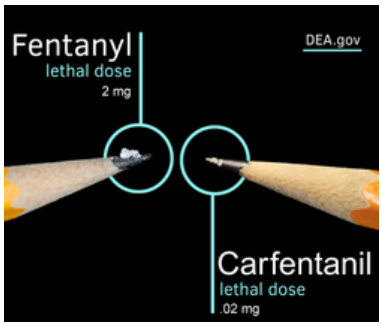


Image source: DEA

Carfentanil - Synthetic Opioid

- Extremely potent synthetic opioid; tranquilizer for large animals like elephants
- Nearly 10,000x stronger than morphine and 100x stronger than fentanyl
- Light colored powder, pills, blotter paper, patch and spray

Street Names

- Drop Dead, Gray Death, Apache, Serial Killer, TNT

Human Consumption

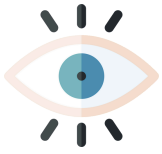
- No approved use in humans
- Illegally mixed into heroin, cocaine, or counterfeit pills to intensify effects

Health impacts of synthetic opioids

- Euphoria, sedation, dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, disorientation, slurred speech, nausea, vomiting, slowed or stopped breathing, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest, coma and in most severe cases, death
- Primary driver of overdose deaths in the U.S. according to CDC
- Risk of overdose from unintentional inhalation exposure

Signs of an opioid overdose

Pinpoint pupils



Blue lips or skin

Shallow/ slow breathing

Pale/ clammy skin

Unresponsiveness

Overdose prevention strategies for Fentanyl and Carfentanil

- Fentanyl test strips
- Naloxone (Narcan) for suspected overdoses, may take multiple doses
- Rescue breathing
- Emergency medical attention
- Seek help through addiction treatment centers, support groups, and healthcare providers

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Xylazine

- Veterinary tranquilizer often found in meth, fentanyl, heroin, or cocaine to increase weight
- Non-opioid sedative and pain reliever
- Appears as light-colored powder in small bags or vials; mixed in pills

Street names:

- Tranq, Tranq dope, Sleep-cut, Philly dope, Zombie drug, 550, Rampage, Black Mask, Steph Curry, Collateral Damage, Cardi B

Xylazine and human consumption

- Not approved for human use; not classified as a controlled substance
- Common usage: Injection, inhalation, ingestion, or snorting

Health impacts

- Short term effects: Reduced heart rate, low blood pressure, slow breathing, drowsiness and slurred speech, loss of consciousness
- Over time users may experience skin ulcers and infections requiring aggressive wound care

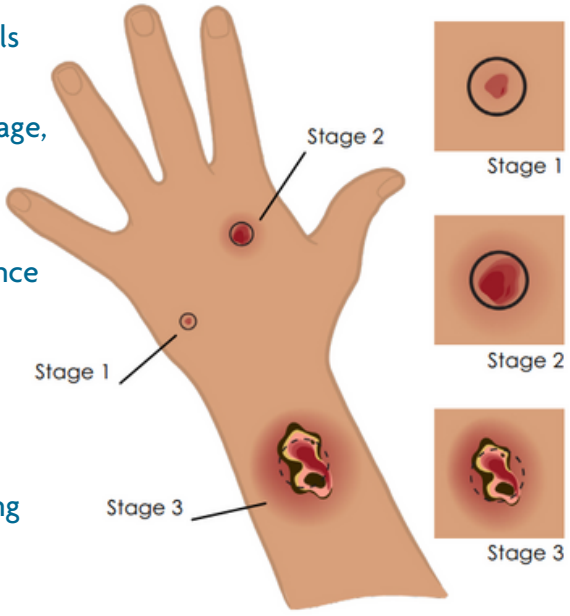

Image source: CDPH

Overdose prevention strategies

- Administer naloxone for suspected opioid overdoses
  - does not counteract xylazine's effects
- Rescue breathing and emergency medical attention

Xylazine Wound Care Steps

- Can appear whether or not user injects and appear anywhere on body
- Treating wounds early is key for successful healing; seek medical care early to prevent permanent damage

1. Clean hands with soap and water, wear gloves
2. Gently wash wounds with soap and water, or with saline (water and salt)
3. Put ointment on a bandage, then place on wound
4. Lightly wrap with dry bandages, and cover with self-adhesive wrap
5. Clean and change every 2-3 days

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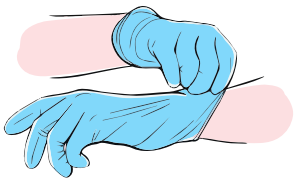

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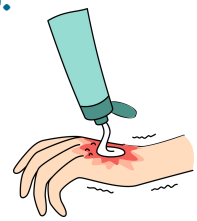

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For information on prevention strategies and treatment options, visit RiverStoneHealth.org/WeCan or scan the QR code

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