Xylazine is an animal sedative and pain reliever also known as tranq or zombie drug. Xylazine is not a controlled substance, therefore, it is not subject to strict monitoring. It could be mixed with other illicit opioids such as fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin to increase the weight and “high” of the drug which increases profit for the seller. Human consumption of xylazine can cause dangerously low blood pressure, slow breathing and heart rate, and even death.

Some Possible Side Effects
- Very low blood pressure
- Coma
- Disorientation
- Extreme sedation and incapacitation for more than 8 hours.
- Gruesome wounds that can appear anywhere on the body.
- Blisters
- Large ulcers
- In severe cases, death can occur

Although xylazine is being reported in Colorado, we are yet to record any confirmed cases in Pueblo County.

By 2022, the Drug Enforcement Administration had seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 US states

Fentanyl powder seized by the DEA contained xylazine

Fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine

If you think someone is experiencing an overdose,
- Call 911
- Move the person to a safe location and stay with them until they are responsive (flat padded dry place). Recovery position on the side is essential, switching sides every 1-2 hours to ensure blood flow.
- Clean up any bodily fluids until the person is awake.
- Administer Narcan if possible (Narcan will not reverse xylazine but will reverse any other opioids present.)

Authors
Moore Hamblin, Data Analyst and Hailey Ure, Intern.

Funding Statement
This project was supported by Grant No. 2013–AR–BX–K003 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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