



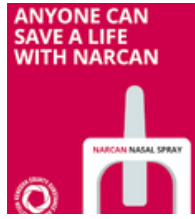
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative



February 2023 Newsletter

200 Washington Avenue, Towson, Maryland, 21204

Tranq Dope: Animal Sedative Mixed With Fentanyl Brings Fresh Horror to U.S. Drug Zones



There is no doubt that in recent years, fentanyl has become a horrible force in the drug market. In 2020 alone, the synthetic opioid was responsible for over 56 thousand deaths nationwide via overdose. It is a terrifying reality that even as bad as fentanyl usage can be, the drug is now being cut with something just as destructive. Xylazine (also known as “tranq” or “zombie drug”) has been found in more than 90% of Philadelphia’s lab-tested dope samples. Use of this drug causes wounds that erupt with a scaly tissue called eschar and if left untreated, this can lead to amputation.

Philadelphia is not the only city in America that is seeing this drug in droves. In New York City, xylazine has been found in 25% of drug samples, and many of the city’s officials say that the actual percentage is much greater. Because this drug is so new, it exists in a legal gray area. Its only approved use is as a veterinarian-prescribed analgesic, which means it is not yet listed as a controlled substance. But this drug is not something that should be trifled with. One person with past usage in Philly said this about xylazine, “The tranq dope literally eats your flesh. It’s self-destruction at its finest.”

Black Mental Health Statistics

- Nearly 10% of African Americans between ages 18-25 have had an alcohol use disorder (9.7%)
- In 2020, over a quarter of African Americans had a mental illness and/or a SUD. (26.4%).
- Within the last five years, opioid misuse among African Americans ages 18-25 was cut in half (6.3% to 3.3%).
- Over 350,000 African Americans have had an opioid use disorder.
- Over 61,000 African Americans between the ages of 12-17 misused opioids in 2020.

February Awareness

- American Heart Month
- National Cancer Prevention Month
- World Cancer Day (February 4)
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 7)



PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Frederick County Health Department has identified new substances in the local drug supply. Some of the county’s samples of heroin and fentanyl contained medetomidine.

Medetomidine is a surgical anesthetic only approved for veterinary use. It is a respiratory drug that is in the same class as xylazine (also called Rompun and Anased). Because this is not an opioid, Narcan does not work on this substance. However, medetomidine is a cutting agent that is often mixed with opioids, so Narcan should still be administered.

Community Resources

- Apply at Baltimore Hilton’s Hotels
- Eviction Prevention Assistance
- Free Tax Preparation
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening
- GED Classes
- Rental & Utility Assistance
- February 3rd- Social Services Outreach/ 10:30am- 1pm
- February 8th- Black history Month Art Contest Deadline

Baby Essentials

- Short-Term Child Care
- February 7th - Precious Baby Pantry of Love/ 10am- 11am
- February 22 - Free food and Diapers/ 1pm-2pm

Clothing Resources

- February 2nd - Business Attire Giveaway/ 3pm-5pm

Job Resources

- Professional Resume Writing
- February 7th- Restore Baltimore Info Session/ 11am-2pm
- February 7th - 9th: Pathways to Employment/ 9am-2pm
- February 10th- Career Training Application deadline
- February 16th- Restore Baltimore Info Session/ 11am-2pm
- February 18th- Positivity in Baltimore/ 1pm-4pm

Food Resources

- Food Service Training Program
- Emergency Food Resources
- Pantry Food Drives/ 1pm-4pm

Black Mental Health Resources

- Black Mental Health Alliance
- Mental Health Resources for Black Communities
- Healing Youth Alliance
- The Opioid Crisis and the Black/African American Population

Black Pioneers in Mental Health

- M. Jocelyn Elders, M.D. was the first African American Woman to be sworn in as the Surgeon General of the United States.
- Solomon Carter Fuller, M.D. was one of the first known Black psychiatrists and pioneering in significant contributions to the study of Alzheimer’s.
- Bebe Moore Campbell founded NAMI-Inglewood in a predominatly Black neighborhood to create a safe space for Black individuals to come and express their mental health concerns.

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