



Massachusetts Overdose Deaths Involving Xylazine 2019 - 2022

Xylazine Facts



Added to illegal drugs, often without users' knowledge



May cause skin ulcers, wounds, heavy sedation, and fatal respiratory depression



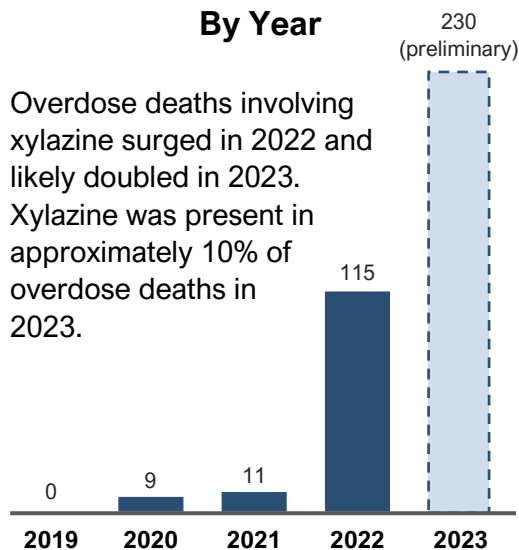
Wounds may occur regardless of how xylazine enters the body



Approved for veterinary use only

By Year

Overdose deaths involving xylazine surged in 2022 and likely doubled in 2023. Xylazine was present in approximately 10% of overdose deaths in 2023.



People whose overdose included xylazine were more likely to die before being treated in the Emergency Department, compared to all other overdose deaths.

RESOURCES

Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline

Call 800-327-5050, text "HOPE" to 800327, or visit <https://helplinema.org>

SafeSpot Overdose Prevention Hotline

800-972-0590

StreetCheck (Community Drug Checking)

<https://www.info.streetcheck.org/>

SOURCES

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), UMass Donahue Institute, United States Census Bureau

Read our [Clinical Advisory](#)



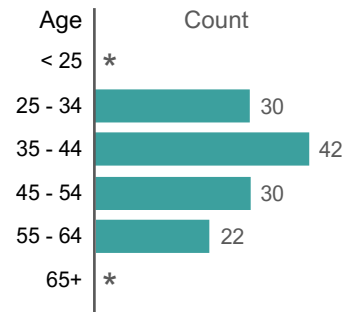
By Sex, Age, Race, and Ethnicity

Sex



Males (7 in 10)
Females (3 in 10)

Age



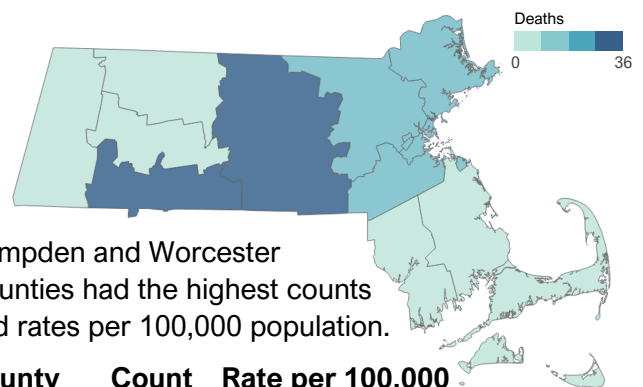
*Counts under 6 have been suppressed.

Rates per 100,000 by Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latinx	2.7
White, non-Hispanic	2.2
Other, non-Hispanic	0.6

Fentanyl was detected in **all** deaths involving xylazine. Cocaine was detected in **more than half**.

By County of Injury



Hampden and Worcester Counties had the highest counts and rates per 100,000 population.

County	Count	Rate per 100,000
Hampden	31	6.7
Worcester	36	4.2