

**The adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels**

Adulteration of illicit drugs with xylazine has become a serious health concern for public health officials and drug users. Xylazine is commonly used as an adulterant in heroin and is frequently found in combination with heroin and cocaine called a “speedball”. Xylazine has been implicated as a cause, or contributing cause, of death in several cases both alone and in combination with other drugs. The most common side effects in humans associated with xylazine poisoning include bradycardia, respiratory and CNS depression, hypotension, and other changes in cardiac output. Concomitant use of xylazine with heroin, cocaine and/or both can result in synergistic effects that may increase the risk of an overdose and/or death.