



August 2023 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

New Resources!

Xylazine Basics: Overdose Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Wound Care

This document provides information on xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer used as an additive in illicit drug supplies, notably in combination with heroin and fentanyl. It discusses the effects of xylazine use, including sedation and potential risks such as hypotension and bradycardia. The document also emphasizes harm reduction interventions for individuals who may encounter xylazine in the drug supply, including the use of naloxone for responding to overdoses and the importance of wound identification and treatment. *Available in English and Spanish.*



Xylazine Basics: Overdose Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Wound Care

JULY 2023

INTRODUCTION: This document provides information on xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer used as an additive in illicit drug supplies, notably in combination with heroin and fentanyl. It discusses the effects of xylazine use, including sedation and potential risks such as hypotension and bradycardia. The document also emphasizes harm reduction interventions for individuals who may encounter xylazine in the drug supply, including the use of naloxone for responding to overdoses and the importance of wound identification and treatment.

What Is Xylazine?

- Xylazine, also known as tranq or tranq-dope, is a non-opioid, unscheduled veterinary tranquilizer that is used as an additive in the illicit drug supply.^{1,2}
- Xylazine is a clonidine analog, meaning it has similar properties to the prescription-only medication clonidine, which lowers blood pressure and heart rate and can decrease anxiety.
- Xylazine was found to be unsafe in brief human clinical trials and is therefore not approved for use in humans.³
- In veterinary medicine, xylazine is used as a sedative, analgesic (pain reliever), and muscle relaxant for animals.
- Xylazine can be ingested orally, inhaled or sniffed, smoked, or injected.
- Xylazine is added to the drug supply because it is cheap and easy to obtain and because it enhances the sedative effect of other substances. Xylazine is most notably added to heroin and fentanyl-containing products, though it has also been reported in other drugs, including cocaine.
- Many people use xylazine inadvertently or unknowingly because it is added to other drugs.



HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

Xylazine Basics | 1

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)

Expanding Peer Support Roles in

Homeless Services Delivery: A Toolkit for Service Providers

Peer support is a fast-growing occupation in the behavioral health sector and homeless service organizations can also benefit from its value. Using trained peer workers to provide additional services and support has become popular and effective in improving overall housing and treatment outcomes. This is especially true when a peer is on a unified team and paired with a supportive, collaborative clinician in a recovery-oriented, trauma-informed organization. This toolkit guides organizations looking to strengthen peers' integration into their workforce. *Available in English and Spanish.*

Expanding Peer Support
Roles in Homeless
Services Delivery:
A Toolkit for
Service Providers

JULY 2023



HOMELESS &
HOUSING
RESOURCE
CENTER

PRI
POLICY RESEARCH, INC.

SAMHSA
Substance Use, Mental Health,
and Suicide Prevention

Sections Include:

- Understanding Peer Support
- Orienting Organizations toward Recovery
- Internal Opportunities When Establishing New Peer Roles in Homeless Service
- Recruiting and Hiring Peer Support Workers

[Download the Toolkit](#)

Upcoming Webinar!

JOIN SAMHSA'S HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER WEBINAR



REGISTER TODAY:

**Employing Peer Workers:
An Organization's Perspective**

AUGUST 29, 2:00PM-3:00PM ET

Employing Peer Workers: An Organization's Perspective

August 29, 2:00-3:00pm Eastern Time (11:00am-12:00pm PT)

In this webinar, panelists will answer questions about the challenges and opportunities organizations experience when establishing new peer roles. Leaders at organizations with established peer roles will talk about the process of onboarding peers, such as building organizational buy-in, addressing stigma in policies and in the workplace, and recruiting and employing peer workers in an equitable way.

Speakers:

1. **Shereda Finch, M.ED, MPA**, Executive Director, Council on Substance Abuse NCADD, Montgomery, AL
2. **J Helms**, Director of Training and Advocacy, Pathways Vermont
3. **Daisy Hernandez, MSW (Moderator)**, Trainer, Director, Recovery Education Collaborative

[Register for the Webinar](#)

This webinar will be recorded and ASL and live captioning will be provided. Certificates of participation will be provided to those who complete a post-event evaluation, but no CEUs are included in this event.

Check out the first webinar in this series to hear from current peer workers!



**The Peer Support Experience:
In Our Own Words**



Partner Resources

SAMHSA: Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis:

Costs and Financing Strategies

This [report](#) will include data on the cost of CSC programs; how it is financed; case studies of cost reimbursement methodologies; funding options; trends in costs and financing for CSCs; data evaluation of Medicaid and private insurance coverage and barriers.

NASTAD: Stimulant Safety - Getting Amped Up to Reduce Harms When Using Stimulants

This [resource](#) provides an overview of stimulants and aims to educate individuals and organizations that provide services to people who use methamphetamine and other stimulants. This resource offers education on the reasons people take stimulants, including the potential positive aspects to use and potential risks of use; how to minimize harm, reduce stigma around stimulants, and support peoples' positive experiences.

SAMHSA SOAR TA Center: Encouraging Employment - Self-Employment

Individuals who receive SSI/SSDI benefits can combine their benefits with employment income. Self-employment or “gig work” may be an opportunity to maximize income for individuals who prefer a less formal, more flexible, and individualized employment option. This [resource](#) outlines opportunities, considerations, and resources for self-employment and gig work for people with disabilities.

Partner Webinars and Events

- Webinar: [The Future of 988: Increasing Accessibility](#)
August 21, 1:00pm ET. National Council for Mental Wellbeing
 - Webinar: [Documenting and Supporting SSI/SSDI Applications Involving Substance Use Disorders](#)
August 23, 3:00pm ET. SAMHSA SOAR TA Center
 - Webinar: [Getting Candid: Practical Guidance for Framing the Conversation Around Youth Substance Use Prevention](#)
September 7, 1:30pm ET. National Council for Mental Wellbeing
 - Webinar: [Best Practices for Successful Reentry From Criminal Justice Settings for People Living With Mental Health Conditions and/or Substance Use Disorders](#)
September 7, 2:00pm ET. SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
 - Webinar: [Integrating Medicaid and Housing Systems](#)
September 20, 1:00pm ET. Corporation for Supportive Housing
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Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org

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