

# NEW TRANQUILIZER IN CHICAGO'S DRUG SUPPLY & OVERDOSE SPIKE

## SUMMARY

- There were more drug overdoses than usual from May 11 to 13, 2024 in Chicago.
- People who overdosed experienced low heart rate, low blood pressure, slow breathing and small pupils (dark part in the middle of the eye).
- **The drug supply is changing in Chicago.** We have seen new drugs like xylazine, nitazenes, benzodiazepines, and medetomidine mixed with other drugs like fentanyl and heroin.
- **You should assume any drug sold as dope, heroine, percocet, and other opioids can contain fentanyl.**
- Medicine (buprenorphine or methadone) can treat withdrawal and protect against opioid overdoses.
- Use fentanyl and xylazine test strips to make sure you're not taking them accidentally.

## DRUG ALERT: MEDETOMIDINE

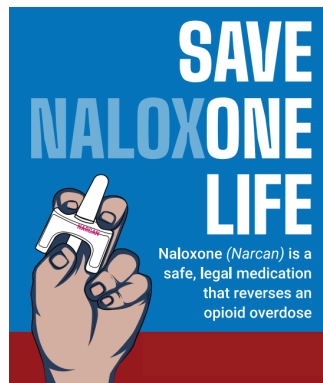
- **Medetomidine, a powerful animal tranquilizer, was found in drugs in Chicago from May 11, 2024.**
- **Medetomidine can cause overdose.** Signs of overdose are drowsiness or sleepiness, twitching, dangerously low heart rate and blood pressure, and slow breathing, especially when opioids are present.
- **There are no test strips for medetomidine and no medicine to reverse a medetomidine overdose.**
- **Call 9-1-1 and use Narcan for any drug overdose.**

## WHERE TO GET HELP



### Medication Assisted Recovery Now (MAR NOW)

MAR NOW is Illinois' opioid treatment helpline. To get started on buprenorphine or methadone, call **833-234-6343** or text "HELP" to **833234**.



Carry Narcan, the medication that reverses an opioid overdose

Free Narcan is available in Chicago.

Visit [bit.ly/FindNarcan](https://bit.ly/FindNarcan) to find Narcan near you.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**USE FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE TEST STRIPS**  
Even if a test strip result is **negative**, medetomidine might still be present.



GO SLOW



DON'T USE ALONE



CARRY NALOXONE

