

Learnings from the National Programme on Substance Use Mortality (NPSUM)

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Overview

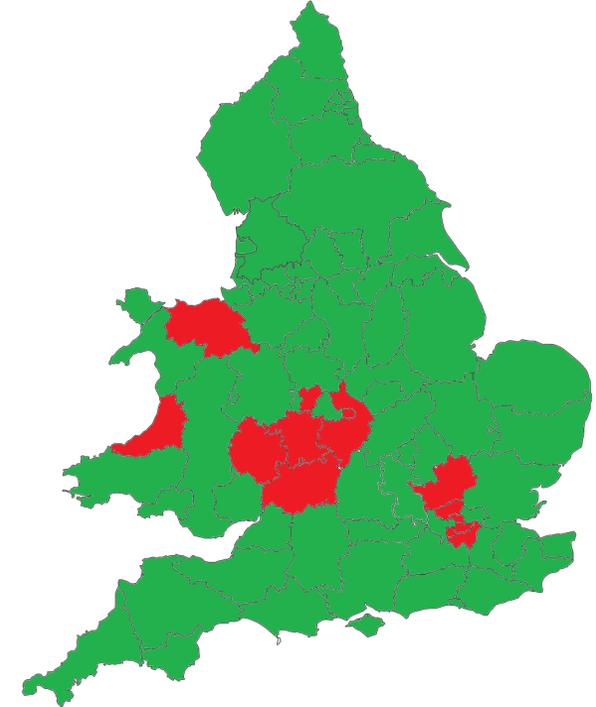
- What is NPSUM?
- What can be done with NPSUM?
 - Informing drug policy
 - Assessing drug policy
 - Improving healthcare strategy for people who use drugs

Overview

- **What is NPSUM?**
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National Programme on Substance Use Mortality

- A database of drug-related deaths reported to voluntarily by coroners
 - England
 - Wales
 - Northern Ireland
 - Channel Islands & Isle of Man
 - (Scotland)
- Started in 1997
- Over 52,000 reports received to date
- Cases that qualify for reporting:
 - The presence of psychoactive drugs at post-mortem and/or implication in causing the death
 - The decedent had a history of (illicit) drug use
- Data fields collected:
 - Demographic data (sex assigned at birth, age, usual address, ethnicity, living arrangements, employment status)
 - Details pertaining to death (cause(s) and manner of death, toxicology, narrative of circumstances)
 - Past medical history (prescribed drugs, co-morbidities, known to use drugs)



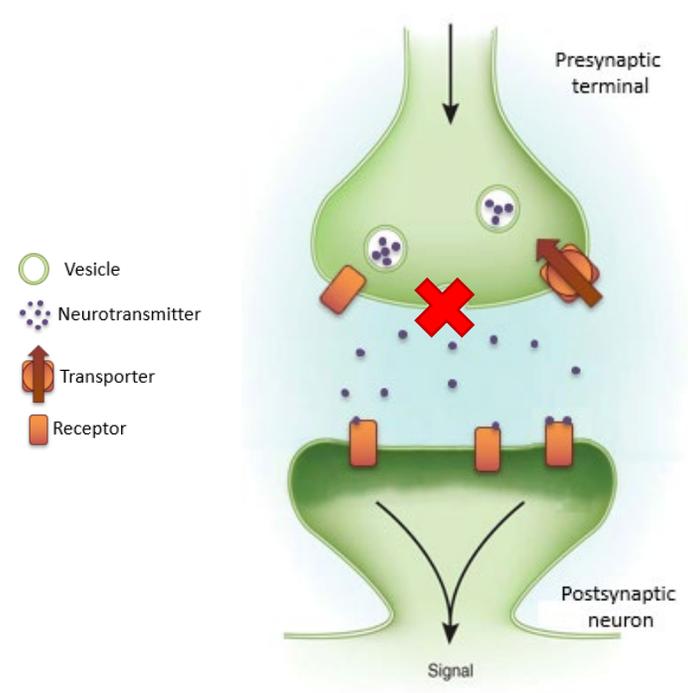
Overview

- **What is NPSUM?**
- What can be done with NPSUM?
 - Informing drug policy : **Emerging trends**
 - Assessing drug policy
 - Improving healthcare strategy for people who use drugs

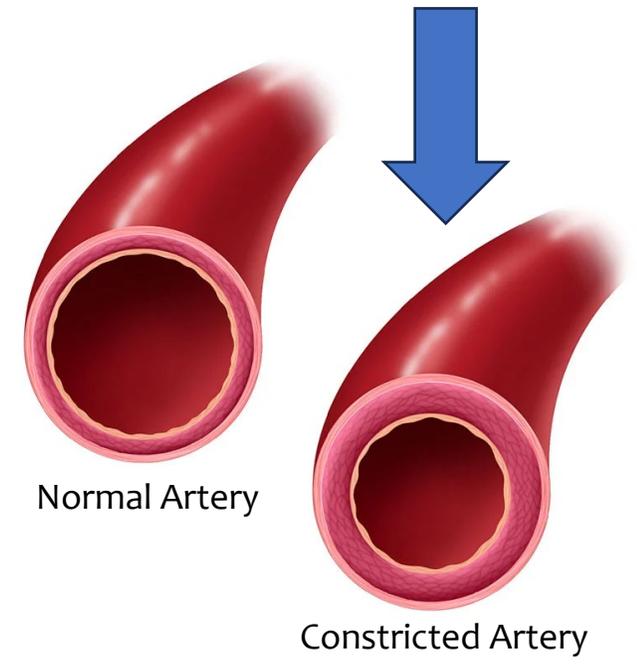
Xylazine

What is Xylazine?

- α_2 -adrenoceptor agonist

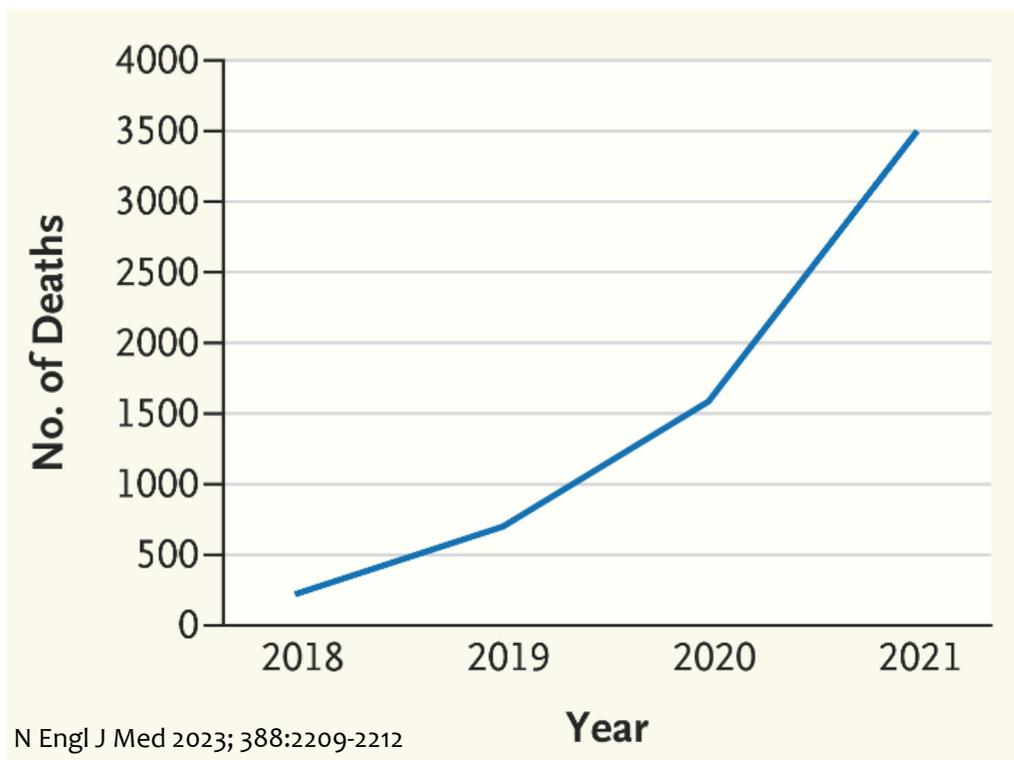


Sedation



Vasoconstriction

Xylazine in the USA



THE WHITE HOUSE

APRIL 12, 2023

**Biden-Harris Administration
Designates Fentanyl
Combined with Xylazine as
an Emerging Threat to the
United States**



ONDCP

BRIEFING ROOM

PRESS RELEASES

Xylazine in the UK?

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THE TIMES
WEDNESDAY MAY 24 2023

UK inflation falls to 8.7%

Consumer prices rose at their slowest rate in a year in April but in worrying news for households and the government key measures of prices continued to rise. Official figures from the Office for National Statistics show that headline inflation fell to 8.7 per cent last month from 10.1 per cent...

[Hunt urges food manufacturers to curb soaring prices](#)

Boris Johnson's allies threaten PM over partygate 'witch-hunt'

Boris Johnson's allies are threatening to obstruct Rishi Sunak's premiership unless he takes action to stop what they call a "witch-hunt" against him. The Times revealed yesterday that the former prime minister had been referred to police by the Cabinet Office over new claims he broke lockdown rules after his ministerial diary revealed...

Asteroid City at Cannes — this is Wes Anderson with Lynchian weirdness

Karl Warburton treated his new home on a quiet estate like his palace. He wanted decking and a water feature for the front lawn. He brightened the living room with strip lights that changed colour to music. He parked his motorcycle outside and was so eager to jump on the saddle that he rode the machine noisily down...



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Case report

The first drug-related death associated with xylazine use in the UK and Europe

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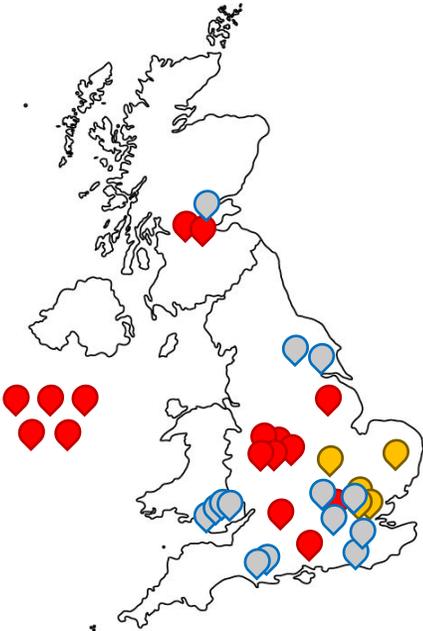
^b Department of Toxicology, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Bordesley Green East, Birmingham, B9 5SS, UK

Was this a 'one off' and not anything to worry about?



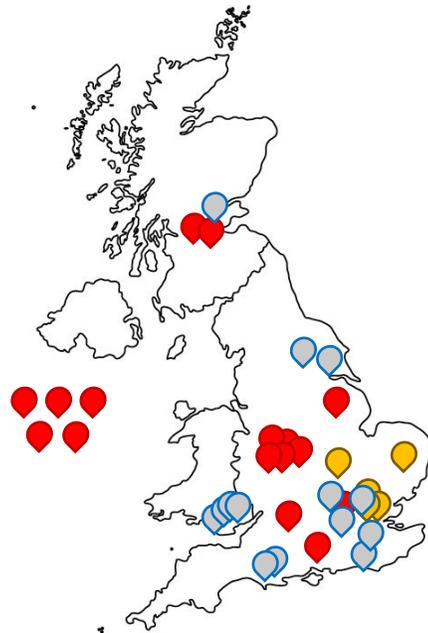
Xylazine has been found across the UK

- Human samples
- WEDINOS detections
- Police seizures



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- Police seizures



SHORT REPORT

ADDICTION

SSA

Broad evidence of xylazine in the UK illicit drug market beyond heroin supplies: Triangulating from toxicology, drug-testing and law enforcement

Caroline S. Copeland^{1,2}  | Kathleen Rice³ | Kirsten L. Rock¹  | Simon Hudson⁴ | Peter Streete⁵ | Alexander J. Lawson⁶ | Lewis Couchman⁷ | Adam Holland⁸ | Stephen Morley^{2,3}

Nitazenes

Nitazene ‘outbreaks’ in the UK & Ireland

Public Health leaders issue drug related safety warning

06 July 2023 at 11:11

Public health officials in the city have issued a safety warning following an unusually high number of serious, heroin-related health incidents reported in Bristol. Six people have died and many more have needed emergency care.

Enquiries are under way to investigate these incidents and the source of the substances. Early indications are that these cases relate to a dangerous batch of heroin in circulation. Avon and Somerset Police has made arrests and all partners continue to work with the police to support efforts to disrupt the spread of these dangerous substances.

Warning of dangerous opiates circulating in the West Midlands

Published: Thursday, 3rd August 2023

Authorities have been made aware of dangerous synthetic opiates circulating in the West Midlands.



HSE Drugs.ie
@drugsdotie · Follow



We have warnings throughout Dublin tonight, stay safe and look out for each other
[#harmreduction](#)



10:47 PM · Nov 10, 2023



290 Reply Share

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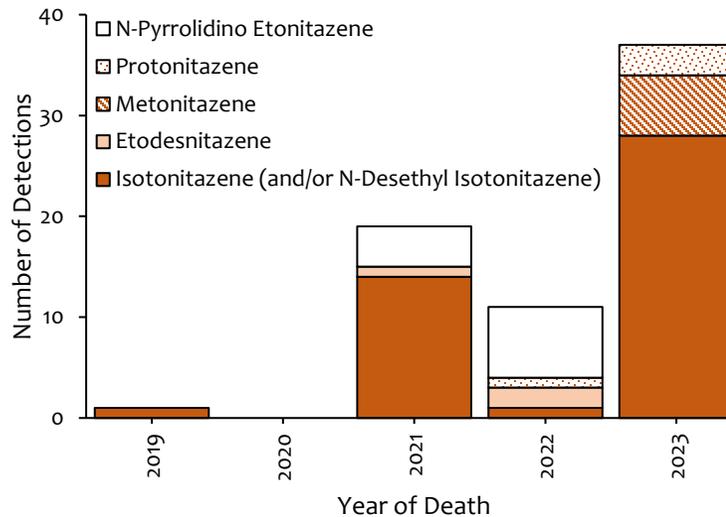
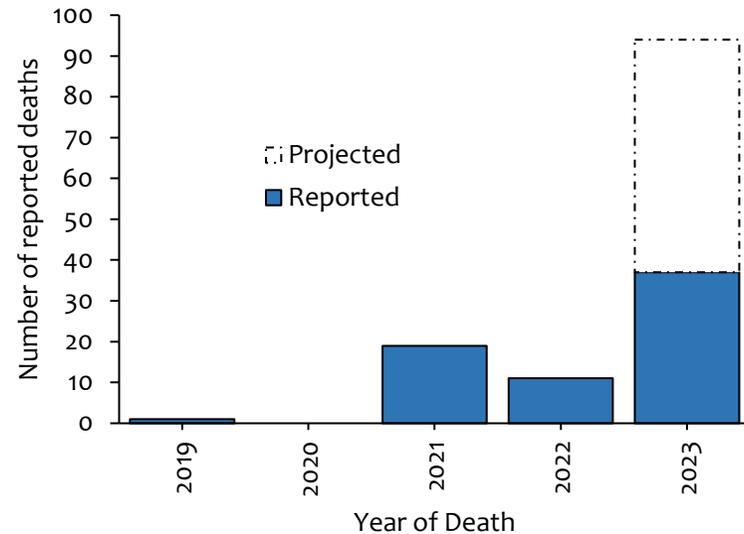
What are nitazenes?

Super strong synthetic opioids

Compound	Relative Potency to Morphine
Morphine	1
Fentanyl	100
Metonitazene	100
Protonitazene	200
Isotonitazene	500
N-pyrrolidino etonitazene	800
Etonitazene	1000

Nitazene detections reported to NPSUM

- 68 deaths reported
- Over 100 samples now processed by UK toxicology labs



Region	Number of Deaths
North East	1
North West	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	1
East Midlands	5
West Midlands	33
East of England	2
London	1
South East	17
South West	6

Why nitazenes now?



Why not fentanyl?

The fentanyl scheduling and China's adoption of stricter mail monitoring have created some deterrence effects. Instead of finished fentanyl being shipped directly to the United States, most smuggling now takes place via Mexico.

Mexican criminal groups — principally the Sinaloa Cartel and CJNG — source fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, and pre-precursors from China. In Mexico, they synthesize the precursors into fentanyl. Sometimes they traffic finished

With thanks....

- Dr Stephen Morley
- Dr Rebecca Andrews
- Dr Lewis Couchman
- Dr Simon Hudson
- Dr Peter Streete
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- Dr Adam Holland
- Kate Rice
- Kirsten Rock
- Shuoqi Chen
- Urmi Kumar

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Any Questions?