

# SAN BENITO COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

SAN BENITO COUNTY  
OPIOID TASK FORCE



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## DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Xylazine, also known as “Tango,” is a powerful sedative that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved for veterinary use.

“Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced. Benzo’s, even heroin,” said Administrator Wiegman. “DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine.”

Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning. Because xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects. SBC experts always recommend administering naloxone if someone might be suffering a drug poisoning. People who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine also can develop severe wounds, including necrosis—the rotting of human tissue—that may lead to amputation.

According to the CDC, 167,735 Americans died between August 2021 and August 2022 from drug poisonings, with 60 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl. The Sinhalá Cartel and Jalisco Cartel in Mexico, using chemicals largely sourced from China, are primarily responsible for the vast majority of the fentanyl being trafficked in communities across the United States.

FDA recently communicated to health care providers about the risks to patients exposed to xylazine in illicit drugs. A copy of that communication can be found here: [FDA alerts healthcare professionals of risks to patients exposed to xylazine in illicit drugs.](#)

**##**  
The DEA issues Public Safety Alerts to warn the public of new, emerging threats to the safety and health of the American people. The DEA just issued a Public Safety Alert in September 2023 warning the public about increases in the purity and availability of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills. The DEA updated that alert in November 2023 warning that six out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl.

## XYLAZINE "TRANQ"

Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer which is reaching the US illicit drug supply (“on the street”) where it is known as “tranq” or “tranq dope.” Xylazine is a non-opioid drug which has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths nationwide. Some people who use drugs are taking xylazine knowingly in combination with other drugs, especially fentanyl to prolong its effects. Other people who use drugs are not aware their drug supply contains xylazine. Xylazine can be hidden in counterfeit pills. Use of xylazine in combination with other drugs such as fentanyl greatly increases risk of overdose and death. Unlike fentanyl, xylazine does not respond to naloxone (Narcan), making overdose even more dangerous. The use of xylazine can also cause serious skin infections, regardless of how it’s used. Xylazine can be swallowed, inhaled, smoked, snorted, or injected into muscle or vein.

If you suspect someone is overdosing on xylazine, administer naloxone and call 911 right away. The naloxone may reverse any opioids also present in their system but it will not affect the xylazine which will require medical attention. Stay with them and monitor their breathing, making sure their airway is open. Administer rescue breaths if needed.

## CENTRAL COAST OVERDOSE PREVENTION TEAM:



The San Benito County (SBC) Opioid Task Force continues to participate in the California Overdose Prevention Network (COPDN) Accelerator Program (4.0) with our tri-county partners (Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz overdose prevention coalitions) as the Central Coast Overdose Prevention Team while continuing our respective coalition work as well. The Central Coast Overdose Prevention Team is working hard on joint efforts impacting all three counties.

### EMS buprenorphine — paramedic administration in the field

The Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey County EMS agencies have developed and implemented the prehospital/EMS based MAT program which allows paramedics to administer buprenorphine in the field AND link the patient with a hospital/emergency department (ED) treatment program accordingly. This program plays an important role in assisting with connecting the patient to resources in the moment. It serves as another critical point of entry onto the path of treatment and support services in our local communities.

## "LET'S START TALKING" BOOKLET (MIDDLE SCHOOL) ... IS HERE!!!



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Last year’s “Let’s Talk” booklet aimed at parents/guardians of 9th graders (high schoolers) was very well-received. Feedback from parents, schools and the community strongly showed a need for a similar booklet aimed at younger age (middle-school). Similar in format to the “Let’s Talk” Booklet, this middle-school tailored booklet is designed to help parents, guardians, caregivers talk with kids about substance use. The conversation is not easy and hopefully, the booklet helps us be more informed and communicate more openly with our youth. The tri-county coalition is launched this Let’s Start Talking booklet **August 8th**. Please see [SBCOTF](#) website for the electronic/pdf. It will also soon be available in hard copy for those interested.

**GET IN TOUCH WITH US**  
[SBCOTF@COSB.US](mailto:SBCOTF@COSB.US)

## OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY AUGUST 31ST

August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day...the world’s annual campaign to end overdose...an opportunity for San Benito County to raise awareness, be informed, prevent overdose, reduce stigma and remember those who have lost their lives to drug overdose as well as acknowledge the loved ones they left behind.

Throughout this month we will be sharing different information related to overdose awareness. To learn more.

Overdose Awareness Day ([overdoseday.com](http://overdoseday.com))  
<https://www.sbcoopioidtaskforce.org/>

## OPIOID DENTAL BROCHURE



\*Click on photo\*

This brochure was a collaboration between SBC Oral Health and Opioid Prevention programs to help educate patients on what opioids are and pain management options for certain oral health procedures. It has been shared with local dental offices to support patient education.

## NALOXONE



Where can you get it?

1. Check your local pharmacies- The pharmacist can furnish it without a prescription and it's covered by most insurances
2. Visit <https://nextdistro.org/cachoice> for free naloxone mailed to you
3. Call San Benito County Opioid Task Force C/o SBC Public Health at 831-637-5367
4. The FDA recently approved Narcan as over-the-counter and is expected to be available sometime late summer.

## 988 CRISIS LIFELINE 24/7

The [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

988 was established to improve access to crisis services in a way that meets our country’s growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs. 988 provides easier access to the Lifeline network and related crisis resources, which are distinct from the public safety purposes of 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire and police as needed)

## SAFE DISPOSAL

For safe disposal of medications and sharps, please refer to this updated flier from Integrated Waste Management for locations and details. Note, Medication Take Away envelopes are available through the pharmacies and in limited quantities through SBC Public Health (for more info contact us at [SBCOTF@cosb.us](mailto:SBCOTF@cosb.us)). Share this Safe Disposal flier widely!



\*Click on photo\*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Overdose Awareness Day**  
Date: August 31, 2023

**DEA Takeback Day**  
Date: October 28, 2023

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[SBCOPIOIDTASKFORCE.ORG](http://SBCOPIOIDTASKFORCE.ORG)

# CONDADO DE SAN BENITO BOLETÍN DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO SOBRE OPIOIDES AGOSTO 2023

SAN BENITO COUNTY  
OPIOID TASK FORCE



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## DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Xylazine, also known as "tranq", is a powerful sedative that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved for veterinary use.

"Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced. Fentanyl, even without xylazine, is a powerful sedative and painkiller. When mixed with fentanyl, the effects are deadly," said Administrator Morgan. "DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl seizures and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine."

Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning. Because xylazine is not an opioid, Naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects. DEA experts always recommend administering naloxone if someone might be suffering a fatal poisoning. People who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine also can develop severe wounds, including necrosis—the rotting of human tissue—that may lead to amputation.

According to the CDC, 167,735 Americans died between August 2021 and August 2022 from drug poisonings, with 60 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids (like fentanyl). The Sinuola Cartel and Jalisco Cartel in Mexico, using chemicals largely sourced from China, are primarily responsible for the 2022 majority of the fentanyl being trafficked in communities across the United States.

FDA recently communicated to health care providers about the risks to patients exposed to xylazine in illicit drugs. A copy of that communication can be found here. FDA alerts healthcare professionals of risks to patients exposed to xylazine in illicit drugs.

## The DEA Issues Public Safety Alerts to warn the public of new, emerging threats to the safety and health of the American people. The DEA just issued a Public Safety Alert in September 2022 warning the public about increases in the safety and availability of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills. The DEA updated that alert in November 2022 warning that six out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl.

La xilacina es un tranquilizante para animales que está llegando a la oferta de drogas ilícitas ("en la calle") de los Estados Unidos, donde se conoce como "tranq" o "tranq dope". La xilacina es una droga pero no es un opiáceo que se ha relacionado con un número creciente de muertes por sobredosis en todo el país. Algunas personas que consumen drogas toman xilacina conscientemente en combinación con otras drogas, especialmente fentanilo para prolongar sus efectos. Otras personas que consumen drogas no son conscientes de que su suministro de drogas contiene xilacina. La xilacina puede estar oculta en pastillas falsificadas. El consumo de xilacina en combinación con otras drogas como el fentanilo aumenta enormemente el riesgo de sobredosis y muerte. A diferencia del fentanilo, la xilacina no responde a la naloxona (Narcan), lo que hace aún más peligrosa la sobredosis. El uso de xilacina también puede causar graves infecciones cutáneas, sin importar cómo se utilice. La xilacina se puede tragar, inhalar, fumar, esnifar o inyectar en un músculo o vena. Si sospechas que alguien está sufriendo una sobredosis de xilacina, adminístrale naloxona y llama inmediatamente al 911. La naloxona puede neutralizar los opiáceos presente en el organismo, pero no afecta a la xilacina y requiere atención médica. Quédate con la persona y vigila su respiración, asegurándote de que sus vías respiratorias están abiertas. Adminístrale respiración artificial si es necesario.

## XILACINA "TRANQ"

## SOBREDOSIS DE LA COSTA CENTRAL EQUIPO DE PREVENCIÓN:



El Grupo de trabajo de opiáceos del condado de San Benito (SBC) continúa participando en el Programa acelerador (4.0) de prevención de sobredosis de California (COPN) con nuestros socios de los tres condados (coaliciones de prevención de sobredosis de Monterey, San Benito y Santa Cruz) como el Equipo de prevención de sobredosis de la Costa Central mientras continuamos nuestro trabajo de coalición respectivo también. El Equipo de prevención de sobredosis de la Costa Central está trabajando duro en esfuerzos conjuntos que afectan a los tres condados.

### Buprenorfina EMS - administración paramédica en el campo

Las agencias EMS de los condados de Santa Cruz, San Benito y Monterey han desarrollado e implementado el programa MAT prehospitalario/EMS que permite a los paramédicos administrar buprenorfina en el campo y vincular al paciente con un programa de tratamiento en el hospital/departamento de emergencias (ED) en consecuencia. Este programa desempeña un papel importante al ayudar a conectar al paciente con los recursos en el momento. Sirve como otro punto crítico de entrada en el camino del tratamiento y los servicios de apoyo en nuestras comunidades locales.

## "FOLLETO "EMPECEMOS NUESTRA CHARLA" (SECUNDARIA) ... ¡YA ESTÁ AQUÍ!



\*Clic en la foto\*

El folleto "Hablemos" del año pasado, dirigido a padres/tutores de alumnos de 9º curso (preparatoria), fue recibido muy bien. Los comentarios de los padres, las escuelas y la comunidad mostraron claramente la necesidad de un folleto similar dirigido a los más jóvenes (estudiantes de secundaria). Con un formato similar al folleto "Hablemos", este folleto adaptado a la escuela media está diseñado para ayudar a los padres, tutores y cuidadores a hablar con los niños sobre el consumo de sustancias. La conversación no es fácil y esperamos que el folleto nos ayude a estar más informados y a comunicarnos más abiertamente con nuestros jóvenes. La coalición de los tres condados lanzarán este folleto Empecemos Nuestra Charla el 8 de agosto. Por favor, consulte el sitio web [SBCOTF](https://www.sbcotf.org) para el electrónico / pdf. También estará pronto disponible en copia impresa.

## DÍA DE CONCIENCIACIÓN SOBRE SOBREDOSIS AGOSTO 31ST

El 31 de agosto es el Día internacional de la concienciación sobre las sobredosis... la campaña anual mundial para acabar con las sobredosis... una oportunidad para que el condado de San Benito aumente la concienciación, se informe, prevenga las sobredosis, reduzca el estigma y recuerde a aquellos que han perdido la vida por sobredosis de drogas, así como reconocer a los seres queridos que dejaron atrás. A lo largo de este mes compartiremos diferente información relacionada con la concienciación sobre las sobredosis. Siganos para saber más. Información básica sobre sobredosis - Día internacional de concienciación sobre las sobredosis ([www.verdoseday.com](https://www.verdoseday.com)) Para más información, síganos en [www.sbcopioidtaskforce.org/](https://www.sbcopioidtaskforce.org/)

## FOLLETO DENTAL SOBRE OPIOIDES



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Este folleto fue una colaboración entre los programas de Salud Oral y Prevención de Opioides de SBC para ayudar a educar a los pacientes sobre qué son los opiáceos y las opciones de manejo del dolor para ciertos procedimientos de salud oral. Se ha compartido con los consultorios dentales locales para apoyar la educación del paciente.

## NALOXONA

¿Dónde puedes conseguirlo?



1. Consulte sus farmacias locales: el farmacéutico puede proporcionarlo sin receta y está cubierto por la mayoría de los seguros.
2. Visite <https://nextdistro.org/cachoice> para recibir naloxona gratis por correo
3. Llame al Group de Trabajo de Opioides del Condado de San Benito C/o Pública del Condado de San Benito al 831-637-5367
4. La FDA aprobó recientemente Narcan como de venta libre y se espera que esté disponible a fines del verano.

## 988 LÍNEA DE CRISIS 24/7

El 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (anteriormente conocido como National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) ofrece acceso a llamadas, mensajes de texto y chat las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, a consejeros de crisis capacitados que pueden ayudar a las personas que experimentan crisis suicidas, de abuso de sustancias y/o de salud mental, o cualquier otro tipo de angustia emocional. Las personas también pueden marcar el 988 si están preocupadas por un ser querido que pueda necesitar apoyo en caso de crisis. 988 se estableció para mejorar el acceso a los servicios de crisis de una manera que satisfaga las crecientes necesidades de atención de crisis relacionadas con el suicidio y la salud mental de nuestro país. El 988 brinda un acceso más fácil a la red Lifeline y los recursos de crisis relacionados, que son distintos de los propósitos de seguridad pública del 911 (donde el enfoque es enviar Servicios Médicos de Emergencia, bomberos y policía según sea necesario)

## ELIMINACIÓN DE MEDICAMENTOS

Aquí hay algunas maneras de cómo deshacerse de los medicamentos de manera segura. Los sobres para llevar están disponibles en Salud Pública para obtener sobres, contáctenos en [SBCOTF@cosb.us](mailto:SBCOTF@cosb.us) ¡Comparta ampliamente este folleto sobre eliminación segura!

Medication & Sharps Disposal in San Benito County



\*Clic en la foto\*

## ANUNCIO

**Overdose Awareness Day**  
Fecha: Agosto 31, 2023

**DEA Takeback Day**  
Fecha: Octubre 28, 2023

**PÓNGASE EN CONTACTO CON NOSOTROS**  
[SBCOTF@COSB.US](mailto:SBCOTF@COSB.US)

**PARA MAS INFORMACION**  
[SBCOPIOIDTASKFORCE.ORG](https://www.sbcopioidtaskforce.org)