

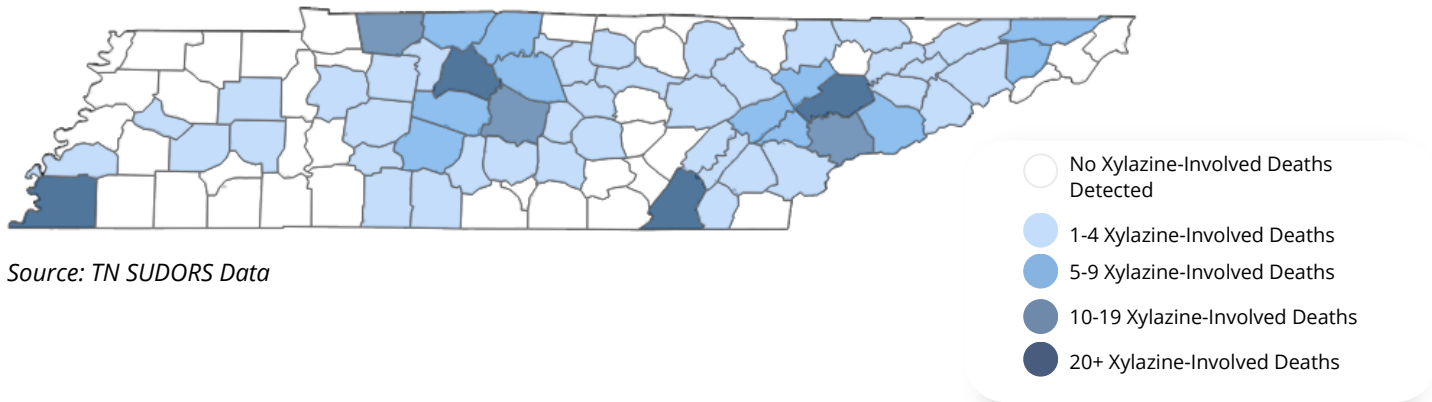


Emerging Trends Brief: Xylazine in Tennessee

Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer, has been linked to an increasing number of drug overdose deaths nationwide and in Tennessee (TN). In 2022, the [US Food and Drug Administration released a warning](#) about the risks associated with xylazine exposure as persons who use illicit drugs may or may not be aware of xylazine's presence in the drug supply. This brief covers basic trends on xylazine-involved deaths of TN residents captured by the [TN State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System \(SUDORS\)](#).

Xylazine-Involved Deaths in Tennessee by County, 2019-2022

Below are the number of xylazine-involved overdose deaths for Tennessee residents by their county of residence



Source: TN SUDORS Data



Xylazine is present in the drug supply across the state

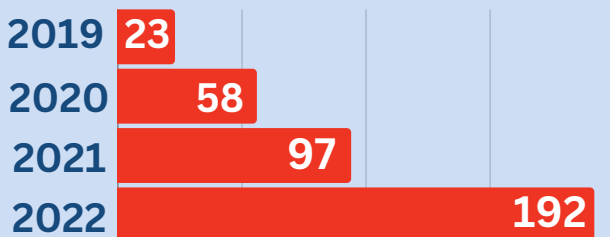
Reports from TN law enforcement show the presence of xylazine in drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine. Xylazine test strips for drug checking are available [online](#).

Xylazine-involved deaths occurred at a home more than other locations



Roughly, 2 out of 3 xylazine-involved overdoses (that led to death) occurred at a residential address; many of these deaths were alone

TN Residents with Xylazine-Involved Deaths



Source: TN SUDORS Data

Top Illicit Substances also identified in Toxicology with Xylazine:

- 1 Fentanyl
- 2 Both Fentanyl & Methamphetamine
- 3 Both Fentanyl & Cocaine

No overdose deaths in TN involved only xylazine; all involved multiple substances