



Street Drug Survival Guide (Harm Reduction)

This guide focuses on reducing harm, staying aware, and staying alive. It includes information about fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, xylazine (“tranq”), overdose response, wound care awareness, and local resources.

Never Use Alone

Stay near someone you trust whenever possible. Isolation increases overdose risk because no one may be there to help if something goes wrong.

Fentanyl Awareness

Fentanyl is commonly found mixed into many street drugs and cannot be seen or smelled. Assume contamination risk in powders, pills, heroin, meth, and cocaine.

Heroin Risks

Heroin may contain fentanyl or tranq/xylazine. Even long-time users may not know what is in a supply. Risk of overdose is extremely high.

Methamphetamine Risks

Meth can cause overheating, dehydration, paranoia, heart strain, psychosis, and dangerous sleep deprivation. Street meth may also be contaminated with fentanyl.

Tranq / Xylazine Awareness

Xylazine (“tranq”) is increasingly found mixed with fentanyl and heroin. It can cause blackouts, slowed breathing, severe sedation, and dangerous skin wounds.

Tranq Wounds

Open sores, blackened tissue, foul odor, or wounds that will not heal may be related to xylazine exposure. Clean wounds regularly and seek medical care when possible.

Carry Narcan

Narcan reverses opioid overdoses and is safe to use. It may still help in overdoses involving fentanyl mixed with tranq, even though tranq itself does not respond to Narcan.

Avoid Mixing Substances

Mixing opioids, alcohol, benzos, or multiple substances greatly increases overdose risk.

Hydration & Nutrition

Dehydration and lack of food increase medical risk. Meth and heat together can quickly become dangerous.

Protect Your Dog

Keep all substances away from animals. Dogs can overdose from very small exposures. Watch for vomiting, shaking, collapse, or unusual behavior.

OVERDOSE WARNING SIGNS

Slow or stopped breathing
Blue lips or pale skin
Unresponsive or difficult to wake
Extreme sedation or collapse
Chest pain, seizures, overheating, severe confusion

ACTION: Call for help, give Narcan if available, monitor breathing, stay with the person

Colorado Springs Resources

- AspenPointe – behavioral health & substance use services
- Recovery Services of Southern Colorado – MAT & recovery support
- Crossroads Turning Points – detox & recovery programs
- Colorado Crisis Services: 1-844-493-8255
- SAMHSA Helpline: 1-800-662-4357
- Local outreach teams may provide Narcan, wound care supplies, hygiene kits, and referrals

Pay It Fur-Ward — Love Without Judgement