

## ***IT'S ABOUT PAIN***

### **MORE ON TRANQ AND FENTANYL**

Previous *It's About Pain* newsletters discussed fentanyl and xylazine (see Vol. 6, #6, and Vol. 6, #9).

Now is a good time for an update because major lawsuits have taken a staggering \$54,000,000,000 from pharmaceuticals, which is causing some chains and manufacturers to go bankrupt, and others to deny prescriptions to patients suffering with chronic pain. As a person with chronic pain, you could get cut off from your medicine. If that happens, your suffering might drive you to consider buying legal or illegal drugs from street dealers.

Fentanyl has become the recreational drug of choice because:

- It can cost as little as 35 cents on the street in Portland.
- It can be snorted, or smoked, or swallowed, so as to avoid the risks of IV heroin (heart infections, AIDS, hepatitis C, and arrest by nosy cops).

Xylazine, or "tranq," has become popular because it prolongs a fentanyl high of 1-2 hours, to a more "enjoyable" 4-5-hour experience. According to recent DEA documents, 15% of fentanyl pills are laced with xylazine. Xylazine may also be referred to as "Rompun," and is commonly given to animals (especially horses) by veterinarians.

There are major problems from xylazine:

- It does not reverse with Narcan.
- It causes a catatonic psychosis, in which users stumble around in a trance.
- It causes necrosis of muscles.
- It causes serious deep skin ulcers, for which there is no effective treatment.

Tranq is now being added to cocaine, and possibly even marijuana, to prolong the high. Even with all the problems, the Feds have not yet made it illegal.

In other news, TV personality, Dr. Laura Berman, is suing SNAP, an internet social media giant, for the death of her son Sammy Chapman (age 16). Via Snapchat, which is used by 60% of teenagers to communicate with others, he purchased "snowflake" (cocaine), which was laced with fentanyl. He passed out and suffocated on his own vomit. Dr. Berman and her husband tracked down the dealer, who sent the drug to their home "just like a pizza," but the Los Angeles District Attorney's office refused to prosecute. Her warning to parents is to be very aware of what is going on with their children's social media content.

***If there is a take home message, it is DO NOT TAKE ANY MEDICATIONS PURCHASED FROM STREET DEALERS.***