Sept. 13, 2023

The Indiana Department of Health has issued an alert about an emerging drug called bromazolam. Bromazolam is a novel or designer benzodiazepine and is being found on the street under other names, such as XLI-268, Xanax, Fake Xanax, and dope. According to the World Health Organization, bromazolam is sold as tablets, powders and gummies, and is frequently mixed with opioids.

In toxicology results of Indiana decedents from January through June 2023, 35 tested positive for Bromazolam, with 8 and 9 results coming in April and May respectively. Bromazolam was not tested for prior to 2023.

Adverse effects of this drug include loss of coordination, dizziness, drowsiness, blurred vision, slurred speech, muscle relaxation, difficulty breathing, amnesia and death. Signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose may include troubled breathing; small pupils; unconsciousness or unresponsiveness; snoring, choking, or gurgling; cold or clammy skin; pale or blue skin; and discolored lips or fingernails. If an overdose is suspected, call 911 and administer naloxone right away, if available.

**Obtaining Naloxone**

As of March 29, 2023, naloxone can now be purchased at all pharmacies as an over-the-counter medication. Indiana also has a standing order in place, signed by Indiana State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP, 2023, so all Indiana residents can purchase naloxone without a prescription.

If your school(s) do not yet have access to naloxone and you are interested in obtaining naloxone training for emergency administration, please email backtoschool@health.in.gov and we can help.