

Emerging Substances in Illinois Unregulated Drug Supply

Summary and Action Items

- 1) IDPH would like to alert responders to reports of overdoses related to [cychlorphine](#), a novel synthetic opioid, and “[pink cocaine](#)” a mixture of various substances including ketamine, MDMA, cocaine, methamphetamine and opioids.
- 2) Naloxone and opioid reversal agents are still recommended, but additional doses may be required in the case of cychlorphine overdose.
- 3) Clinicians and responders should contact Illinois Poison Center for support with suspected overdoses with atypical symptoms at 1-800-222-1222

Background

Cychlorphine

Cychlorphine (N-Propionitrile Chlorphine) has been identified in samples from the unregulated drug supply in Illinois and in postmortem toxicology in at least three substance-related fatalities in Cook County since November 2025. Cychlorphine belongs to an emergent subclass of synthetic opioids referred to as “orphine analogs”. Orphine analogs first emerged in illicit drug markets in 2020 and continues to diversify with at least six different analogs confirmed in recent years.

Cychlorphine is approximately 10x more potent than fentanyl. It has been detected alone and in mixtures with fentanyl or other substances such as methamphetamine, bromazolam, and/or cocaine. With cychlorphine’s increased potency and being commonly found in mixtures with other opioids, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and the public should be prepared to treat suspected opioid overdoses with additional doses of naloxone.

Pink Cocaine/Tucibi/Tuci/Tusi

IDPH has received reports of overdoses due to a mixture of substances commonly known as “pink cocaine” (also known as tucibi, tuci, or tusi). Pink cocaine is a powdered mixture of substances which is dyed pink. It may have a sweet smell and typically produces mind-altering hallucinogenic effects. The composition of each batch can vary widely and people who consume pink cocaine are likely unaware of the range of serious effects possible.

Pink cocaine contains a variety of different substances but is often a mixture of ketamine with methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), methamphetamine, cocaine, and/or opioids. This unregulated polysubstance mixture often contains ketamine mixed with stimulants and/or depressant and symptoms may vary due to the amount of each substance in the mixture.

Adverse effects include hallucinations, anxiety, hyperthermia, hypertension, tachycardia, hyponatremia, nausea and vomiting. At higher concentrations, adverse effects can include seizures, heart arrhythmia, coma, respiratory depression and death.

Treatment of patients exposed to pink cocaine is supportive and dependent on the symptoms. Given the possibility of opioids in the mixture, naloxone and other opioid reversal agents should be utilized as well, if the person is unconscious or heavily sedated.

Recommendations

Local health departments are encouraged to share this alert with community partners:

- Share this information with harm reduction sites, treatment facilities, clinical providers, and pharmacies in your area.

First responders and medical providers:

- Drug mixtures may include opioids, so administration of naloxone is still recommended when drug overdose is suspected.
- Naloxone (opioid reversal agent) should be used per protocol when drug overdose is suspected, with awareness that more and prolonged administrations may be required to fully reverse an overdose.
- As with any suspected opioid overdose, special attention should be paid to the airway with a low threshold for airway support.
- Contact Illinois Poison Center for support with suspected overdoses with atypical symptoms 1-800-222-1222

Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction:

- Encourage clients and their family and friends to carry naloxone.
- Encourage clients to use drug test strips before consumption and avoid using drugs alone.
- Inform clients who report any type of illicit drug use that any drug can contain fentanyl or other potent substances.
- Have information on Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) and treatment programs available.

Additional Resources & References:

- Pink cocaine
 - Barbaro L, Bouchard JL. What Is Pink Cocaine? The Dark Reality behind a Colorful Name. J Med Chem. 2024 Dec 12;67(23):20733-20736. [What Is Pink Cocaine? The Dark Reality behind a Colorful Name](#)
- Illinois Helpline for Opioid and Other Substances
 - [Helplineil.org](https://helplineil.org)
 - Call (833) 234-6343
 - Text “HELP” to 833234
 - Services available en Español
- Local Health Department listings: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/LHDMap/HealthRegions.aspx>
- Resources for Naloxone Administration and Overdose Education: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/opioids/overdose-reversal.html>
- IDPH opioid webpage: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/opioids.html>
- DEA One Pill Can Kill Informational Page: <https://www.dea.gov/onepill>
- CSTE Overdose Cluster Toolkit: <https://odalerts.cste.org/>
- A Dose of Truth: <https://www.prevention.org/a-dose-of-truth/>
- Rethink Recovery IL: <https://www.prevention.org/rethink-recovery/>

Target Audience: Local health departments, emergency departments and hospitals, EMS providers and harm reduction organizations

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