



Drug Trend Bulletin

January 2022

BLACK XANAX

This interim Drug Trend Bulletin is published to highlight a current or potentially significant drug related issue that may affect our local communities.

BLACK / GREY XANAX

Since the beginning of 2022, several reports have been received surrounding black or grey 'Xanax' tablets or bars being in circulation.

Substance users in the Tayside area have commented on these tablets which have the same appearance as prescription white 'Xanax' bars having hallucinogenic effects similar to magic mushrooms or acid (LSD);

Further reports in the Borders, suggest Grey 'Xanax' is in circulation and are causing users to black out for days and may be linked to several overdoses.

The images below show a commonly found white 'Xanax' tablet alongside a black / grey one.



Legitimate pharmaceutical grade 'Xanax' tablets contain Alprazolam a class 'C' drug under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. They are white or light pink in colour and shaped either as per the images above or in smaller oval tablets.

Pharmaceutical grade 'Xanax' is a depressant drug and is a long acting Benzodiazepine prescribed for the short-term treatment of anxiety that is severe or disabling, occurring alone or with insomnia. It is also prescribed for the treatment of acute alcohol withdrawal, night tremors and somnambulism in children. They are only available in the UK with a private prescription and are not available on the NHS. In most cases Xanax recovered will be illicitly manufactured and non-pharmaceutical.

Any other colour of 'Xanax' tablet would indicate they have been illicitly produced and are likely to contain unknown substances in varying doses. Tablets that crumble easily or have poor quality markings may also be an indicator that they have been illicitly produced.

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Illicitly produced 'Xanax bars' have recently been found to contain a wide range of substances including Etizolam, Diazepam, Flualprazolam and Flubromazolam and have varying amounts of dosage, due to the lack of quality control during their manufacture.

Every opportunity should be taken to highlight the dangers illicitly manufactured 'Xanax' presents to drug users and in particular, the dangers of using multiple substances at the same time (poly drug use).

URGENT TREATMENT SHOULD BE OBTAINED BY ANYONE EXPERIENCING HEALTH ISSUES FROM CONSUMING DRUGS.