



MEDICAL PROBLEMS

- Collapsed veins
- Brain abscesses
- Blood clots
- Hepatitis C
- HIV virus from infected needles
- Respiratory failure
- Infections of heart lining and valves
- Death

PARAPHERNALIA

- Hypodermic needles
- Aluminum bottle caps
- Cigarette lighters/matches
- Razors
- Tin foil, vials and small plastic baggies
- Spoons
- Straws
- Tourniquets

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

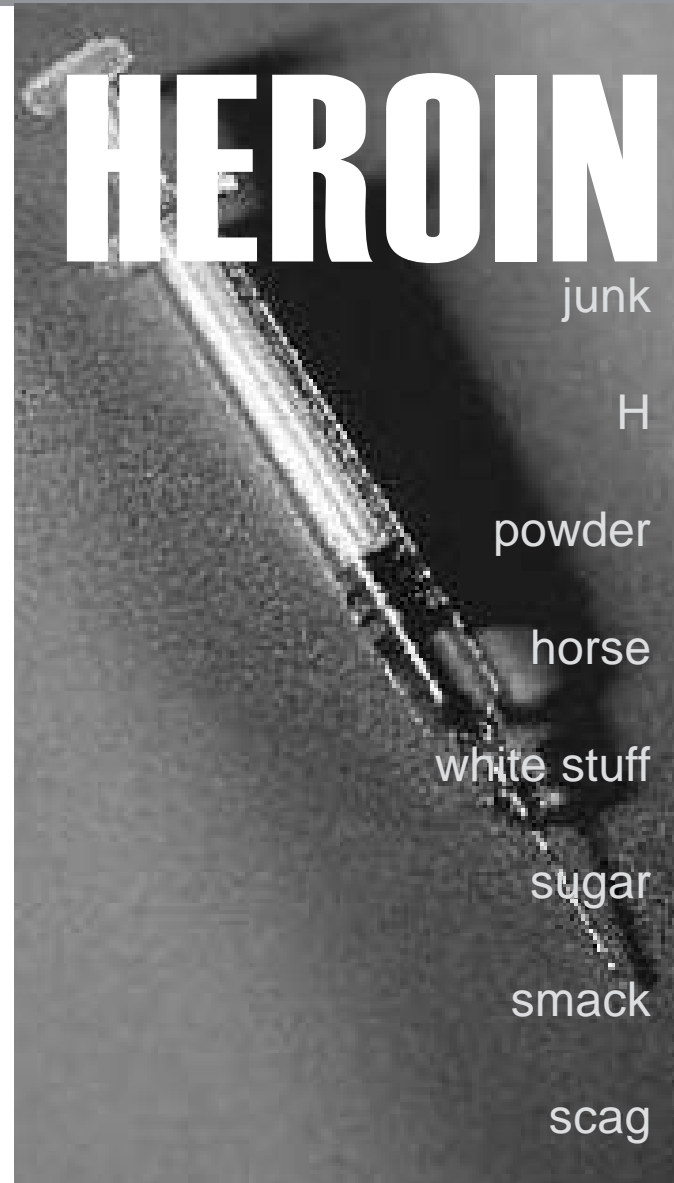
Drug treatment centers tell us that withdrawal from heroin is very difficult. Symptoms of withdrawal include nausea, diarrhea, watery eyes, runny nose, tremors and shaking, vomiting, abdominal cramps and sometimes convulsions. Medical attention should be sought immediately for anyone suspected of withdrawing from heroin.

For additional information related to the contents of this brochure, please contact the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

Truth & Choices

The Office of Attorney General has created this new anti-drug program to introduce middle and high school students to Shane. A popular kid from a suburban Pennsylvania school, Shane shares this true story of hard choices and near death experiences due to drugs and alcohol. The presentation features interviews with Shane (from prison), his family, law enforcement and the medical community. It's a reality check for all students and will open a unique dialogue about the realities of substance abuse. There is also a program for parents. Both programs are available on DVD and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

To order a copy of the DVD and/or to request a "Truth & Choices" school or community presentation to be given by the Office of Attorney General, please contact our Education & Outreach Unit toll-free at **800-525-7642** or via email at education@attorneygeneral.gov.



Heroin is perhaps the most dangerous of narcotic drugs that you can find on the streets today. Today some of the heroin we are finding is as much as 90 percent pure.

Heroin use remains a serious problem in the United States and in Pennsylvania. Addiction, hospital emergency room visits, overdoses and deaths from heroin use have increased dramatically within the past few years. Snorting heroin has grown in popularity, eliminating the need to use needles to inject the drug. Treatment centers tell us that more and more young people are using heroin today than ever before.

Please read over the information in this brochure. Heroin is not just a thing of the past. It is back with a vengeance. Take the time to educate yourself about this dangerous substance.

WHAT IS HEROIN?

Heroin is a member of the opiate family of drugs. It is a depressant that affects the brain's pleasure systems and interferes with the brain's ability to perceive pain. Derived directly from morphine (which is obtained from the opium poppy), it is never found in nature, but was synthesized by scientists searching for a non-addictive substitute for morphine. The result, ironically, was a drug with four times the analgesic effect of morphine and several times the addictive potential. The potential for abuse is so great that manufacture and importation of heroin is forbidden by Federal statute.

Heroin is both physically and psychologically addictive. It comes in either a white or tan powder form or can look like black tar. The increasing purity of heroin is one factor that accounts for higher rates of snorting or smoking heroin since users want to get higher faster and avoid needles. Heroin typically costs from \$10-\$20 for a small plastic bag.

METHODS OF USE

- Injected into a vein ("mainlining")
- Injected under the skin ("skin popping")
- Injected into a muscle
- Smoked in a water pipe or standard pipe
- Mixed in a marijuana joint or regular cigarette
- Inhaled as smoke through a straw, known as "chasing the dragon"
- Snorted through the nose in powder form

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

Heroin is a fast-acting drug, especially when injected or smoked. Injected heroin reaches the brain in 10 to 20 seconds; smoked heroin reaches the brain in 20 to 30 seconds. Snorted heroin reaches the brain in 1 to 3 minutes. The high from heroin is experienced as intense pleasure. Effects usually last 4 to 6 hours. Once a person begins using heroin, they quickly develop a tolerance to the drug and need more and more to get the same effects.

There are some who believe that small doses of heroin can be used safely. Known as "chipping," this practice is a dangerous experiment that can lead to a full-blown addiction.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

- Respiratory failure
- Slowed and slurred speech
- "Nodding off"
- Constricted pupils
- Vomiting
- Slow gait
- Dry, Itchy skin
- Euphoric state
- Impaired night vision
- Weight Loss

STREET NAMES

Heroin is known by the street names of:

junk	horse	smack
H	white stuff	dope
powder	sugar	scag