

HEROIN



dea.gov

WHAT IS HEROIN?

- It is a highly addictive opiate drug made from morphine, which comes from opium, a substance found in certain poppy plants.
- It appears as a white or brownish powder or a black sticky substance known as black tar.

STREET NAMES

Big H, Black Tar, Chiva, Hell Dust, Horse, Negra, Smack, Thunder

HOW IS IT USED?

- It is injected with a needle, smoked, or sniffed/snorted.
- Those who inject heroin **risk infectious diseases** such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and liver or kidney disease.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF HEROIN?

Effects on the mind

- Since it enters the brain so quickly, heroin is particularly addictive.
- Heroin users report feeling a surge of euphoria or "rush," followed by a state of sleepiness and wakefulness, and clouded mental functioning.

Effects on the body

- Drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea, warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth, and heavy feeling in arms and legs.
- Effects of heroin overdose are slow, shallow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.



TRUE OR FALSE?

Heroin is less dangerous if you snort or smoke it? **FALSE**

FACT: There is **no safe** way of using it. You can still **die from an overdose** or become addicted by snorting or smoking it.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Stopping heroin use is easy. **FALSE**

FACT: Those who are addicted to heroin and stop using it abruptly may have severe withdrawal symptoms, which can begin as early as a few hours after the drug was last taken. These include restlessness, severe muscle and bone pain, sleep problems, diarrhea and vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps, and uncontrollable leg movements.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

DID YOU KNOW?

- Research suggests that misuse of prescription opioid pain medicine is a risk factor for starting heroin use.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse



FOR DRUG USE PREVENTION INFORMATION, VISIT DEA'S WEBSITES:

For parents, caregivers,
and educators

GetSmartAboutDrugs.com

For teens

JustThinkTwice.com

For college and university
campuses

CampusDrugPrevention.gov