

HEROIN

Heroin is processed from morphine. Morphine is made from a type of poppy plant.

Heroin is powerfully addictive. Users feel a sudden strong rush of pleasure, followed by several hours of sluggishness. After a few uses, users need larger amounts of heroin to feel the same effects. They feel awful pain if they try to cut back. Addicts then use more heroin to escape the pain.

DRUG ID

Looks: A white or brown powder; sometimes sticky, brownish-black material

Street Names: Smack, dope, H, big H, Harry, skag, horse, junk, and tar

Methods of Use: Injected, smoked or sniffed

Actions: Briefly floods a user with pleasure. For hours, the user feels sleepy, lazy, and peaceful. Useful activity is out, because the drug depresses the brain and nervous system.

Warning Signs: Drowsiness, itchiness, slow thinking, laziness

THE NUMBERS

In 2001, heroin caused 93,000 visits to emergency rooms.

43 metropolitan areas reported over 2,200 deaths involving heroin use in 2000.





- Flushed skin
- Dry mouth
- Heavy arms and legs
- Lack of energy
- Constipation
- Poor thinking

USING OVER TIME

- Addiction
- Collapsed veins
- Liver disease
- Risk of HIV and hepatitis
- Overdose and death
- Painful withdrawal
- Skin infections
- Heart infections
- Pneumonia

WAY TO GO

Heroin users lose more than their physical and mental health. They lose their quality of life, and they lose themselves in addiction. Some lose their lives altogether. Stay clean. Stay away from heroin.

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