

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE
ABUSING HEROIN, CONTACT A GATEWAY
TREATMENT CENTER NEAR YOU.

ILLINOIS

Aurora

Carbondale

Caseyville

Chicago Northwest

Chicago River North

Chicago West

Lake Villa

Pekin

Springfield

Swansea

Get the Facts on:

Heroin

24-Hour Helpline
877-505-HOPE (4673)
RecoverGateway.org

MORE WAYS TO STAY INFORMED



Real Answers for Lasting Recovery

Source: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center
for Substance Abuse Prevention



HEROIN

Also known as: *Smack, Horse, Mud, Brown Sugar, Junk, Black Tar, Big H, Dope, Skag*

It can be hard to tell if someone has been using heroin. If someone has one or more of the following warning signs, they may be using heroin or other illicit drugs.

KNOW THE SIGNS

- Euphoria
- Drowsiness
- Impaired mental functioning
- Slowed down respiration
- Constricted pupils
- Shallow breathing
- Pinpoint pupils
- Clammy skin
- Convulsions
- Coma

YOUR BRAIN

Heroin enters the brain quickly. It slows down the way you think, slows down reaction time and slows down memory. This affects the way you act and make decisions.

YOUR BODY

Heroin poses special problems for those who inject it because of the risks of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles. These health problems can be passed on to sexual partners and newborns.

SUPER-ADDICTIVE

Heroin is highly addictive because it enters the brain so rapidly. It particularly affects those regions of the brain responsible for producing physical dependence.

IT'S NOT WHAT IT MAY SEEM

Despite the glamorization of "heroin chic" in films, fashion and music, heroin use can have tragic consequences that extend far beyond its users. Fetal effects, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, violence and crime are all linked to its use.

IT CAN KILL YOU

Heroin is one of the most frequently reported drugs by medical examiners in drug abuse deaths.

KNOW THE RISKS

Because the strength of heroin varies and its impact is more unpredictable when used with alcohol or other drugs, the user never knows what might happen with the next dose.

KNOW THE LAW

Heroin is an illegal Schedule I drug, meaning that it is in the group of the most highly addictive drugs.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT HEROIN

- Any method of heroin use -- snorting, smoking, swallowing or injecting the drug -- can cause **immediate harm and lead to addiction.**
- **The untimely deaths** of several popular musicians and other celebrities may have influenced many young people to stay away from heroin use, but to others, the dangers are still not clear. The average age of first use was 20.7 in 2006.
- **There is no safe way of ingesting heroin.** You can die from an overdose or become addicted by snorting or smoking it.

TEENS AND HEROIN

The vast majority of adolescents are not using heroin.

According to a 2006 national study, less than 1% report ever having tried it.