# Heroin

Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a highly-addictive opiate and pain-killing drug extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant.

Heroin goes by a variety of street names, including "H," "dope," "points," "dog food," "junk," "skag" and "smack."

Regardless of the name used, anytime a person purchases heroin, it is not pure. It is often cut with any number of toxic additives and other potentially dangerous substances.

Because heroin is cut with a variety of additive agents, the color of the final product can be anything from white to brown powder or as a black sticky substance, known as "black tar heroin."

Depending on how a person intends to use the drug, heroin comes in a powder, pill or solution form. Heroin can be injected, inhaled by snorting or sniffing or smoked.

Heroin's attraction lies in its ability to reach the brain quickly and to produce euphoric effects.

Every time heroin is used, overdose is a risk.

Some drug users trying heroin for the first time become heroin addicts the next day.

More than six out of 10 overdose deaths in 2014 involved opioids, including opioid pain relievers and heroin...that is 81 deaths a day



## Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least **3** other drugs.

**People who are addicted to...**

are **2x** more likely to be addicted to heroin.

are **3x** more likely to be addicted to heroin.

are **15x** more likely to be addicted to heroin.

are **40x** more likely to be addicted to heroin.

## At home, watchful parents whose children are using heroin may notice the following signs:

Drug and paraphernalia:

- Heroin in its powder form, often solid in cellophane bags, either in its purest white form or in various shades of brown, depending on what impurities it has been cut with
- Hypothermic needles to inject heroin intravenously
- Spoons, with burn marks on the underside, that heroin could be heated on (so the vapor could be inhaled)

Changes in behavior:

- Declining school attendance and grades
- Unusual outbursts of temper
- Worsening personal grooming habits
- A normally prompt child becoming chronically late
- Sunglasses worn even when it's not bright outside, long sleeves worn even when it's not hot (to hide veins that have been injected)
- The disappearance of cash or pricey items from the home (sold by the user) to fund drug habit
- New friends hanging around who may look less clean-cut than earlier friends or seem less motivated about school
- Lying, secretive behavior and/or run-ins with the law