



Heroin



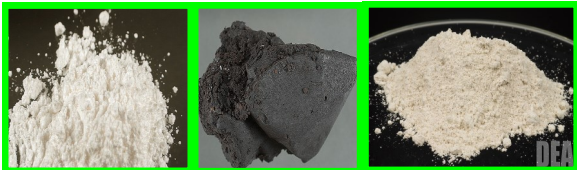
What are they?

- ◆ Heroin is an opioid/opiate drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant
- ◆ Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder or as a black sticky substance known as “black tar heroin”
- ◆ When heroin enters the brain it is converted back into morphine and binds to opioid receptors in the brain.
- ◆ Long-term use of the drug can result in tolerance, in which more of the drug is needed to achieve the same intensity of effect
- ◆ From 2009-2012 a total of 825 people died from Opioid overdoses in Jackson County.



Street Names

- ◆ Big H
- ◆ Brown Sugar
- ◆ H
- ◆ Hell Dust
- ◆ White Horse
- ◆ Junk
- ◆ Smack
- ◆ Nose Drops
- ◆ Thunder
- ◆ Skag



Did you Know?

- ◆ In 2011, 4.2 million Americans aged 12 or older had used heroin at least once in their lives
- ◆ It is estimated that about 23% of individuals who use heroin become dependent on it
- ◆ The human brain is naturally equipped with opioid receptors, when someone is injured the body naturally releases endorphins which bind to these receptors to help reduce the perception of pain
- ◆ Street heroin often contains toxic chemicals or additives that can clog blood vessels leading to the lungs, liver, kidneys, or brain, causing permanent damage to vital organs
- ◆ Heroin use during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and physical dependence of the baby
- ◆ People who use heroin tend to be extremely thin, have waxy complexions, dark circles under the eyes, sunken cheeks, and greasy hair
- ◆ Prescription painkillers often contain opioids that are either naturally derived from poppy flowers, or lab made, semi-synthetic substitute

How is it used?

- ◆ Injected
 - ◆ Inhaled by snorting, sniffing or smoking
- All 3 routes of administration deliver the drug to the brain very rapidly, which contributes to its health risks and to its high risk for addiction*

What are the side effects?

- ◆ Coma
- ◆ Death (usually from fatal overdose)
- ◆ Hypoxia (suppression of oxygen to the brain)
- ◆ Deterioration of the brain’s white matter, this can affect decision-making abilities, the ability to regulate behavior, and responses to stressful situations
- ◆ Risk of contracting HIV and hepatitis
- ◆ Infection of the heart lining and valves
- ◆ Liver and/or kidney disease
- ◆ Slowed breathing, nausea, and vomiting
- ◆ Clouded mental functioning
- ◆ Sedation and drowsiness
- ◆ Hypothermia (body temperature is lower than normal)
- ◆ Weakening of the immune system
- ◆ Loss of memory and intellectual performance
- ◆ Respiratory (breathing) illnesses
- ◆ Muscular weakness, partial paralysis
- ◆ Abscesses from use of needles



Information From:
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Drug Free World
Above the Influence