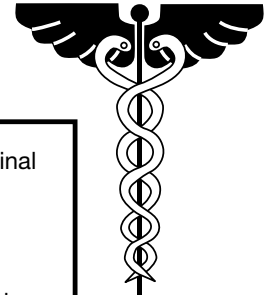




HEROIN



Facts About Drugs

WHAT IT IS

Names: heroin, dust, "H," horse, junk, smack, shit, scag, Mexican mud, China white, black tar

Type: semisynthetic narcotic pain killer, opiate

Forms: fine, white crystalline powder, water soluble and bitter tasting

Combinations: with amphetamines, "bombitas"; with cocaine, "dynamite," "speedball," "whiz-bang"; with marijuana, "atom bomb," "A-bomb"

Usage: injected (water solution) into bloodstream, "mainlining;" under skin, "skin popping," or into muscle; sniffing (powder), "snorting;" smoking (vapor), "chasing the dragon;" swallowing (powder wrapped in tissue or bread)

Legal Status: illegal in U.S. for all use; legal in some countries for extreme cancer or other pain and for regulated maintenance of addicted users

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

an immediate, powerful orgasmic rush, followed by peacefulness, lack of pain, euphoria, leading to drowsiness (a "nod"), inactivity, inability to concentrate, small pupils, droopy eyelids, limited vision, slowed breathing, nausea and vomiting, lack of appetite, constipation, reduced sex drive, increased urination, itching or burning on skin, low body temperature, sweating

WHAT IT DOES

To Your Mind: metabolizes into morphine and depresses central nervous system, suppressing pain sensation and relieving anxiety

To Your Body: affects both gastro-intestinal and respiratory systems, causing constipation and slow breathing

Special Characteristics: Repeated use develops tolerance to nausea and vomiting. Then, tolerance to desired effects also develops, requiring increased dosage.

HOW IT CAN HURT YOU

- irregular breathing and heartbeat, respiratory and cardiac arrest
- needle infection may cause collapsed veins, tetanus, hepatitis, endocarditis or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- unborn children of using mothers may be affected by mental retardation, deformities, heart defects and delayed development
- addiction
- death from overdose

WHEN TO GET HELP

- Do you think about how and when you're going to use heroin again?
- Is your work or school performance affected by your drug use?
- Are you having problems with family and friends?
- Do you spend more on heroin than you can afford?
- Do you use drugs in addition to heroin?
- Are you willing to do anything to get heroin?

FACT:
Of all similar drugs you are most likely to become addicted to heroin.