

HEROIN



Top: Pill form of heroin, aka buttons
Center: Powder form of heroin in multiple colors
Lower: Common materials used to inject heroin

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF USE

Tiredness (aka “nodding” off), pinpoint pupils, nausea, sores/marks on arms or other parts of the body, missing spoons/pens/money, a sudden change in appearance and/or attitude, unexplained absences

SHORT AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Short-term: constipation, vomiting, clouded thinking, slowed speech, slowed movement, slowed breathing, slowed heart rate, euphoria

Long-term: addiction, infections (Hepatitis C or HIV/AIDS), blood clots, collapsed veins, decreased sexual desire, menstrual cycle problems

STREET NAMES

Buttons or Beans—refers to the pill form of heroin

Smack, Boy, Horse, H—refers to heroin in general

Black tar, China white, Cheese—refers to specific types of heroin

HOW IT'S USED

Injected, snorted, smoked, or swallowed

WHY IT'S DANGEROUS

Heroin is considered to be one of the most highly addictive substances known to man. It may cause immediate changes in the brain, which could lead to the brain disease of addiction. Heroin also affects the portion of the brain responsible for breathing, and it may cause a person to stop breathing completely and die. It may also cause someone to choke on their own vomit when they fall asleep after use. Because of this, someone can die after only one use.

For help or information, call NCADA at 314.962.3456 or visit ncada-stl.org

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