

HEROIN

Heroin is the most abundant and the most rapidly acting of opiate based drugs. It is typically sold as a white or brownish powder or as the black sticky substance known as "black tar heroin." Heroin can be smoked, snorted or injected, all of which can lead to addiction and other severe health problems. Heroin is also known as Dope, Smack, Horse, Mud, Big H and Black Tar.

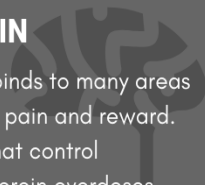
DANGERS OF HEROIN

- Numb to pain
- Heart complications
- Scarred or collapsed veins
- Sharing needles may result in hepatitis, AIDS, and other blood born diseases.
- Liver or kidney disease
- Slow and shallow breathing
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Coma
- Death



HEROIN & THE BRAIN

Heroin enters the brain very quickly and binds to many areas especially those involved with feelings of pain and reward. It also binds to areas of the brain stem that control breathing, blood pressure and arousal. Heroin overdoses often involves slowed or stopped breathing.

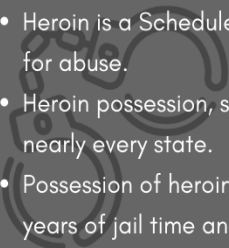


HEROIN IN HAWAII & THE US

- Heroin is increasingly available in Hawaii. Mexican black tar is the most prevalent form of heroin and is widely available.
- **4.5%** of Hawai'i high school students have used heroin at least once in their lifetime.
- In 2016, **66%** heroin overdoses lead to death in the United States.
- **4.8** million Americans have used heroin at some point in their lives.
- In 2017, nearly 494,000 people in the United States (12-years old or older) reported using heroin in the past year.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF HEROIN

- Heroin is a Schedule I drug meaning it has a high potential for abuse.
- Heroin possession, sale, and trafficking are felony crimes in nearly every state.
- Possession of heroin under state law can result in up to 7 years of jail time and up to \$50,000 in fines. While sale or distribution can lead to life in prison and \$100,000 in fines.





Sources: www.drugabuse.gov, www.streetdrugs.org, www.sayno.com, NIDA Community Drug Alert Bulletin on Heroin, www.nida.nih.gov, Drug Enforcement Administration, www.usdoj.gov, <http://www.addictionsandrecovery.org/opiates-narcotics-recovery.htm>, CDC.gov, 2017 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS)

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