

HEROIN

CAUSE & EFFECT



SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

Brain

Decreased alertness, insomnia

Mouth

Dryness

Heart

Heart problems

Lungs

Trouble breathing

Stomach

Nausea & vomiting

Circulatory

Collapsed veins

Muscle

Muscle aches

Physical

Risk of overdose, track marks, sores and itching at injection site, chills, fatigue, insomnia, death

Disease

Risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Psychological

Depression, addiction

Heart

Infection of the heart lining and valves, Heart failure

Lungs

Pneumonia

Liver

Liver disease and failure

Kidneys

Kidney disease and failure

Stomach

Diarrhea

Muscles

Muscle weakness

Physical

Death

STREET NAMES FOR HEROIN: Antifreeze, Big "H", Brown/Brown Sugar, Cheese (when mixed with cold medicine), Horse, Junk, Mud, Skag, Smack, Tar, Train

FORMS OF HEROIN USE:

Regular Heroin: Injected into the vein.

Chasing the Dragon: Smoking or snorting heroin.

Cheese: The name for heroin mixed with over-the-counter cold medicine.

Black Tar: Sometimes called "brown," "black," "chiva," "tar," "slab," or "la negra", black tar is dark brown or black and sticky and injected into the veins.



FACTS ABOUT HEROIN

- The worst part about heroin is the painful withdrawal symptoms users experience immediately after the first use.
- Users are at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and bacterial infections from shared needles.



FACTS ABOUT "CHASING THE DRAGON"

- Smoking or snorting heroin is just as dangerous as injecting it.
- People are as much at risk for addiction, overdose and death when they are "Chasing the Dragon"

FACTS ABOUT "CHEESE"

- Cheese is highly addictive and just as dangerous as regular heroin.
- Heroin and cold medicines are both depressants, which means your body is getting a double dose of downers.

FACTS ABOUT "BLACK TAR HEROIN"

- Users who inject "Black Tar" are at a higher risk for developing hard, narrow veins, a condition known as sclerosis.
- Users are at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and bacterial infections from shared needles.

Refusal Tips

You know that heroin is dangerous, addictive and illegal. You know that it can kill you, and that if someone offers you heroin, you should walk away. If someone offers you heroin, tell them "no" - or try one of these lines:

- "No way. Needles freak me out."
- "I don't want to risk getting AIDS."
- "Sorry. I don't need another bad habit."



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