

- **Heroin is a powerful narcotic drug derived from the opium poppy. It is:**
 - *an illegal Schedule I Drug: it has no medical use in the U.S.*
 - *and was originally developed as a non-addictive replacement for morphine but is stronger and more addictive.*
 - *73% of the world's heroin comes from Afghanistan. Most of Butler's supply comes from South America and more specifically, Pittsburgh.*
- **Heroin is a depressant drug that affects one's pleasure system and the brain's ability to perceive pain:**
 - *It produces a quick, intense feeling of pleasure followed by a calm sense of well-being.*
 - *It is a brown, tan or white powder - or a black, sticky resin or tar.*
 - *It can be smoked, snorted, or injected intravenously (mainlining) or under the skin (popping).*
 - *Common injection sites are: arms, hands, under fingernails, between toes, genitals, & tear ducts.*
 - *Effects occur within 6-8 seconds (when smoked), 1-3 minutes (snorted), & 10-20 seconds (injected) & can last 4-6 hours at which time withdrawal from heroin, or "Dope Sickness" occurs.*
 - *Heroin's first-time-use high is never achieved again.*
 - *It attaches to the body's opiate sensors (in the brainstem, limbic system & spinal cord) & once triggered, are never turned off, creating life-long addiction.*
 - *Addiction can occur with any method of use and the first time used.*
- **Heroin is sold in stamp bags (1), bundles (10), or bricks (50) and:**
 - *Costs about \$20 per bag here in Butler County.*
 - *Is also sold in wax paper, baggies, condoms, balloon, & tin foil.*
 - *Stamp bags are identifiable by brand names (i.e. body bag, homicide, White Lightning, Jaguar, Satan, China Bride, My One & Only...) & do not indicate purity levels.*
 - *Purity levels are uncertain & change.*
 - *Butler County heroin is 80 – 90% pure (compared to the 1970's 6-8% purity levels).*
- **The physical effects of heroin include:**

<i>droopy eyelids</i>	<i>constricted pupils</i>	<i>face & chest redness</i>	<i>slowed/slurred speech</i>
<i>nodding off</i>	<i>nausea/vomiting</i>	<i>constipation</i>	<i>dry, itchy skin</i>
<i>dry mouth</i>	<i>euphoric state</i>	<i>poor coordination</i>	<i>weight loss & malnutrition</i>
<i>sweating</i>	<i>decreased libido</i>	<i>decreased blood pressure</i>	<i>impaired mental functioning</i>
<i>reduced appetite</i>	<i>addiction</i>	<i>decreased body temp</i>	

- **Medical complications include:**

<i>collapsed veins</i>	<i>lesions/sores at injection sites</i>	<i>liver disease</i>
<i>Hepatitis B & C</i>	<i>pulmonary complications</i>	<i>pneumonia</i>
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	<i>infections/damage in heart lining</i>	<i>death</i>
	<i>premature births/addicted babies</i>	

- **Symptoms of overdose include:**

<i>shallow breathing</i>	<i>pinpoint pupils</i>	<i>foaming at mouth</i>
<i>clammy skin</i>	<i>convulsions</i>	<i>coma</i>

- **Symptoms of heroin withdrawal, or “dope sickness” includes:**

<i>vomiting</i>	<i>diarrhea</i>	<i>severe leg cramps</i>	<i>tremors</i>
<i>watery eyes</i>	<i>itchy nose</i>	<i>shaking/kicking</i>	<i>convulsions</i>

- **Addicts:**

- *Do not die from withdrawal*
- *Will “chip” or “skin pop” to keep from getting “Dope Sick”.*
- *More males than females OD on heroin.*
- *Middle class, suburban 18-24 year olds are currently the largest population of heroin users.*
- *Users commit crimes (theft, robbery, assault, drug dealing, prostitution...) to pay for their drug.*
- *Typical treatment pathways consist of detoxification, in-patient, intensive outpatient, and outpatient counseling services.*

- **Heroin slang terms include:**

<i>Big H</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
<i>Smack</i>	<i>White Horse</i>	<i>Junk</i>
<i>Dope</i>	<i>Brown Sugar</i>	<i>Scag</i>
	<i>Black Tar</i>	

- **Heroin paraphernalia include:**

<i>Vials</i>	<i>cotton balls</i>	<i>cut-down straws</i>
<i>spoons</i>	<i>bottle caps</i>	<i>matches/lighters</i>
<i>baggies</i>	<i>wax paper</i>	<i>aluminum foil</i>
<i>razors</i>	<i>needles</i>	<i>tourniquets</i>

- **“Cheese” is an emerging drug that mixes Tylenol PM (Advil PM...) with Heroin. It provides a cheap high, is accessible to teens, and is often considered a new type of “starter” heroin.**