What is HEROIN?

Heroin is a narcotic, also called an opiate. Opioid refers to both opiates and synthetic substances that mimic opiates. These are drugs derived from the opium poppy plant. The term opioid can refer to opium, morphine and HEROIN, as well as man-made drugs such as Fentanyl. All of these are powerful pain killers, which are also very addictive and prone to abuse.

The U.S makes up 5% of the global population and consumes approximately 80% of the global opioid supply.¹

**BETWEEN 2002 and 2013:**

- Heroin USE in the United States jumped 63%.
- About 23% of individuals who use heroin become DEPENDENT on it.
- Heroin-related overdose DEATHS increased by 286%.

**BETWEEN 2014 and 2015:**

- Death rates from synthetic opioids like fentanyl increased 72.2%.
- Heroin death rates increased 20.6%.

Among new heroin users, about three out of four report abusing prescription opioids before using heroin.³

Heroin may be the most physically addictive of all drugs.⁴

- It can be snorted, smoked or injected. Tolerance builds quickly, which means that the user needs more and more to get the same effect.
- Reaction to heroin depends on how pure it is and what other substances may have been mixed in by the drug dealer if it is bought on the street.
- When an addict doesn’t get the drug, painful withdrawal symptoms begin. These may include headache, vomiting and severe pain in muscles and bones.
- Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can counter an opiate overdose when administered in time.
- Heroin addiction is difficult to overcome and usually requires professional help.

**Fentanyl... amount that COULD KILL²**

If you, your child or someone you know has been prescribed any of the opioids, BE AWARE of their addictive potential and propensity for abuse.
Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.
Most used at least 3 other drugs.

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and death for users.

People who are addicted to...

- Alcohol are 2x more likely
- Marijuana are 3x more likely
- Cocaine are 15x more likely
- Rx Opioid Painkillers are 40x more likely

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

The vast majority (96%) of people who use heroin also use at least one other drug, and more than half (61%) use at least three other drugs.

Responding to the Heroin Epidemic

**PREVENT People From Starting Heroin**
Reduce prescription opioid painkiller abuse.
Improve opioid painkiller presenting practices and identify high-risk individuals early.

**REDUCE Heroin Addiction**
Ensure access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
Treat people addicted to heroin or prescription opioid painkillers with MAT which combines the use of medications (methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) with counseling and behavioral therapies.

**REVERSE Heroin Overdose**
Expand the use of naloxone
Use naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time.


SOURCE: CDC Vitalsigns, July 2015

2. [https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/69hggg/a_lethal_dose_of_fentanyl_next_to_a_penny/](https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/69hggg/a_lethal_dose_of_fentanyl_next_to_a_penny/)
4. [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/heroin.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/heroin.html)