

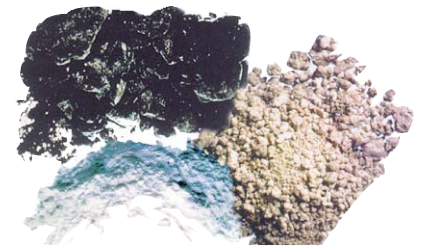


DRUG FACT SHEET

Heroin

Heroin overdose is a particular risk because the amount and purity of the drug cannot be accurately known.

Class of drug:	Narcotic/Opiate
Main active ingredient:	Morphine, which is processed and extracted from the seed pod of certain poppy plants
What it looks like:	Powder (white to dark brown), tar-like substance
Street names:	Smack, Horse, Brown Sugar, Junk, Mud, Big H, Black Tar, White Boy
How it is used:	Injected, inhaled or smoked
Duration of high:	Euphoria sets in within seven seconds (intravenous injection), two to five minutes (intramuscular injection) or 10 to 15 minutes (sniffed or smoked). The high lasts from 10 to 30 minutes. Euphoria is followed by lethargy, sleepiness and apathy.
Withdrawal symptoms:	Restlessness, yawning, muscle and bone pain, cold flashes with goose bumps, diarrhea, vomiting and insomnia. Major withdrawal symptoms peak between 24 to 48 hours after the last dose and subside after a week. Heroin withdrawal is never fatal in otherwise healthy adults.
Detected in the body:	One to three days
Effects:	Immediate —a rush, accompanied by a warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth and heavy feeling in the extremities, slowed breathing, slowed cardiac function, suppression of pain, clouded mental functioning Long-term —contaminated injection equipment may transmit diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, collapsed veins, infection of heart lining and valves, tuberculosis



Clockwise from top: Black tar heroin, brown powdered heroin and white powdered heroin

Illinois information

In Chicago and its suburbs, more people visit emergency rooms for heroin overdoses than any other major metropolitan area in the United States. Deaths from heroin overdoses increased in Lake County by 130 percent from 2000 to 2009. McHenry County saw an increase of 150 percent in three years. Heroin deaths in Will County doubled in two years.

(Roosevelt University Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, 2011)