



Fact Sheet

Heroin

Slang Terms: Smack, Mud, Brown Sugar, Junk, Black Tar, Big H, Dope, Skag

Heroin affects your brain. Heroin enters the brain quickly. It slows down the way you think, slows down reaction time, and slows down memory. This affects the way you act and make decisions.

Heroin affects your body. When injecting, there are risks of HIV, hepatitis B and C and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles. These health problems can be passed on to newborns and sexual partners.

Heroin is super-addictive. Heroin enters the brain so rapidly it is highly addictive. It particularly affects those regions of the brain responsible for producing physical dependence.

Heroin can kill you. Heroin is one of the top two frequently reported drugs by medical examiners in drug abuse deaths.

Heroin is not what it may seem. Despite glamorization of "heroin chic" in the culture, heroin use has tragic consequences that extend far beyond its users. Fetal effects, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, violence, and crime are all linked to its use.

Signs and symptoms of use are:

- Euphoria
- Drowsiness
- Impaired mental functioning
- Slowed down respiration
- Constricted pupils
- Nausea

If you have questions, please contact Patty Karn, Prevention Supervisor at The Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. 814-381-0921, pkarn@blairdap.org