

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 US imports 26% of the world's heroin supply, yet we have only 6% of the world's population.

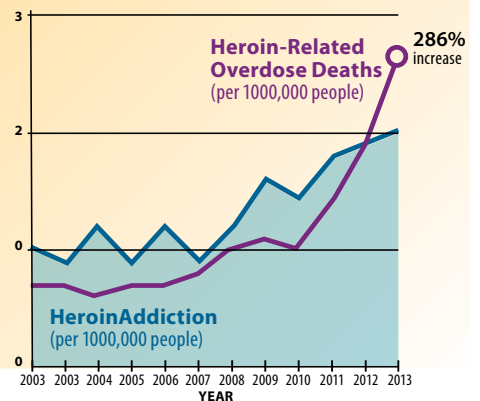
BETWEEN 2002 and 2013:

- 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%**.

Heroin Use Has INCREASED Among Most Demographic Groups

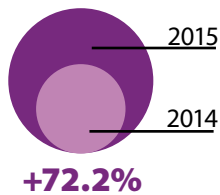
| | 2002-2004* | 2011-2013* | % CHANGE |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 2.4 | 3.6 | 50% |
| Female | 0.8 | 1.6 | 100% |
| AGE, YEARS | | | |
| 12-17 | 1.8 | 1.6 | -- |
| 18-25 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 109% |
| 26 or older | 1.2 | 1.9 | 58% |
| RACE/ETHNICITY | | | |
| Non-Hispanic white | 1.4 | 3 | 114% |
| Other | 2 | 1.7 | -- |
| ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME | | | |
| Less than \$20,000 | 3.4 | 5.5 | 62% |
| \$20,000-\$49,999 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 77% |
| \$50,000 or more | 1 | 1.6 | 60% |
| HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE | | | |
| None | 4.2 | 6.7 | 60% |
| Medicaid | 4.3 | 4.7 | -- |
| Private or other | 0.8 | 1.3 | 63% |

Heroin Addiction and Overdose Deaths are Climbing



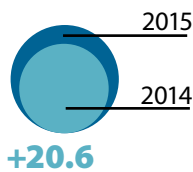
SOURCES: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2002-2013. National Vital Statistics System, 2002-2013.

BETWEEN 2014 and 2015:



Death rates from **synthetic opioids** like fentanyl increased **72.2%**.

SOURCE: CDC



Heroin death rates increased **20.6%**.

**Fentanyl...
amount that
COULD KILL**



Nearly half of young people who inject heroin surveyed in three recent studies reported abusing prescription opioids before starting to use heroin.

Heroin may be the most physically addictive of all drugs.

- 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.

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.



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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



MARIJUANA

are

3x



COCAINE

are

15x



Rx OPIOD PAINKILLERS

are

40x

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2011-2013.

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.

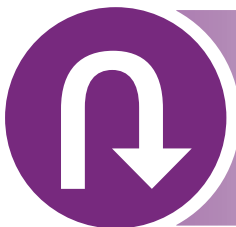
Improve opioid painkiller prescribing practices and identify high-risk individuals early.



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 Vital signs, July 2015



Supported by Gwinnett County Public School System



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