

Heroin				
<i>An opioid drug made from morphine, a natural substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant.<sup>i</sup></i>				
Common Commercial Names	Street Names	Common Forms	Common Ways Taken	DEA Schedule / Legal Status
No commercial uses	Brown sugar, China White, Dope, H, Horse, Junk, Skag, Skunk, Smack, White Horse <i>With OTC cold medicine and antihistamine: Cheese</i>	White or brownish powder, or black sticky substance known as "black tar heroin"	Injected, smoked, snorted	Schedule I / Illegal
Uses & Possible Health Effects <sup>ii</sup>				
Short-term Symptoms of Use	Euphoria; warm flushing of skin; dry mouth; heavy feeling in the hands and feet; clouded thinking, impaired coordination; alternate wakeful and drowsy states; itching; nausea; vomiting; slowed breathing and heart rate; and fatal overdose.			
Long-term Consequences of Use and Health Effects	Collapsed veins; abscesses (swollen tissue with pus); infection of the lining and valves in the heart (endocarditis); constipation and stomach cramps; liver or kidney disease; and pneumonia.			
Other Health-related Issues	Pregnancy-related: miscarriage, low birth weight, neonatal abstinence syndrome. Risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases from shared needles.			
In Combination with Alcohol	Dangerous slowdown of heart rate and breathing, coma, and death.			
Withdrawal Symptoms	Restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, and cold flashes with goose bumps.			
Treatment Options <sup>iii</sup>				
Medications	Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Naltrexone.			
Behavioral Therapies	Contingency management, or motivational incentives 12-Step facilitation therapy			
Statistics as of 2015 <sup>23</sup>				
Prevalence	<p><i>Lifetime:</i> 5.1 million persons (1.9%) aged 12 or older have used heroin in their lifetime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heroin needle use: 2.2 million persons (0.8%)</li> <li>• Smoked heroin: 2.0 million persons (0.7%)</li> <li>• Sniffed or snorted heroin: 3.3 million persons (1.2%)</li> </ul> <p><i>Past Year:</i> 828,000 persons (0.3%) aged 12 or older have used heroin in the past year.</p>			
Average Age of Initiation	25.4			

i. Source: NIDA, (2016).

ii. Sources: NIDA, (2016) & DEA, (2015).

iii. Sources: NIDA, (2016).