



# STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL'S SPARK PROGRAM



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## HEROIN

### I. About Heroin

- **Drug Class:** Schedule 1 Narcotic
- **Description:** White to dark brown powder or tar-like substance
- **What is Heroin?** Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a “**downer**” or **depressant** that affects the brain’s pleasure system and interferes with the brain’s ability to perceive pain.
- **Pharmaceuticals marketed it as** a safe substitute for morphine and treatment for coughs until 1910; it was eventually found to be more addictive than morphine.
- **Heroin Affects On The 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 On The Body:** Heroin poses special problems for those who inject it because of the risks of HIV, Hepatitis B and C and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles. These health problems can be passed on to sexual partners and newborns.

### II. How Is It Taken?



- **Heroin can be used in a variety of ways,** depending on user’s preference and the purity of the drug. Heroin can be injected into a vein (“mainlining”), injected into a muscle, smoked in a water pipe or standard pipe, mixed in a marijuana joint or regular cigarette, inhaled as smoke through a straw, known as “**chasing the dragon,**” snorted as powder via the nose. **No matter how it is taken, heroin is highly addictive.**

### III. Terms & Slangs

- **Heroin:** Antifreeze, Aunt Hazel, Black Tar, Brown Crystal, Brown Sugar, Chieva, Crank, Cura, Dope, El Diablo, Golden Girls, H, Hell Dust, Horse, Junk, Manteca, Mud, Nose Drop, Poison, Scag, Sweet Dreams, Smack, Train & White Dragon. **There are many more.**

### IV. “About The Buzz”



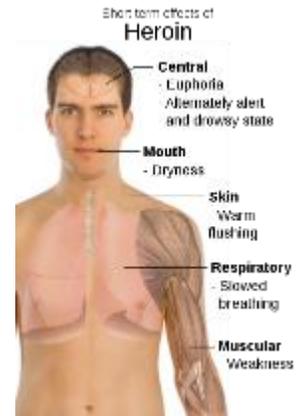
- **When heroin is taken on a regular basis,** the body gradually builds a tolerance to the drug.
- **When this happens,** the user has to take more and more of the drug to maintain that buzz. Soon, **the body craves the heroin and has developed an addiction.**
- **During the introduction of the drug into the body,** there is first a **euphoric feeling known as “a rush”** then a state of semi-consciousness that the user weaves in and out of for a period of time.
- **Next, heroin starts to dull the senses,** slowing down any messages that the body sends to the brain and vice-versa.

### Some Helpful Resources/Referrals

- **Above The Influence**  
[www.abovetheinfluence.com](http://www.abovetheinfluence.com)
- **National Institute On Drug Abuse**  
[www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)
- **Phoenix House**  
[www.phoenixhouse.org](http://www.phoenixhouse.org)
- **Substance Use & Mental Health**  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

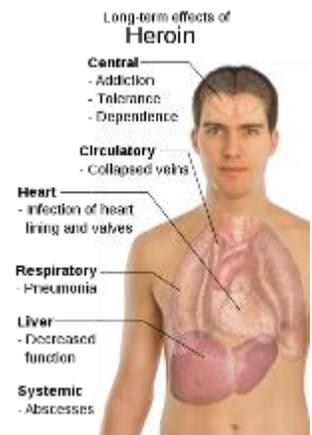
### V. Effects & Health Risks

#### Short Term Effects



- **The short-term effects will include:** a surge of euphoria (rush); warm-flushing of the skin; mouth dryness; slowed respiratory breathing and muscular weakness. After this initial rush, a user goes “**on the nod**” an alternately wakeful and drowsy state. Mental functioning becomes clouded due to the depression of the central nervous system.

#### Long Term Effects



- **The long-term effects will include:** addiction, tolerance and dependence; respiratory depression; pneumonia; cardiac arrest; circulatory complications (**i.e. collapsed veins**); infection of heart lining and valves; abscesses; decreased liver function.

- **Additional concerns:** Exposure to hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and other infections from dirty needles.
- **In 2005 and 2006,** there were 243 seizures totaling more than 634 kilograms of heroin from Kennedy and LaGuardia airports, according to the Department of Justice (**AM New York: 10/26/09**).