

# HEROIN



Top: Pill form of heroin, aka buttons  
Center: Powder form of heroin in multiple colors  
Lower: Common materials used to inject heroin

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF USE

Tiredness (aka “nodding” off), pinpoint pupils, nausea, sores/marks on arms or other parts of the body, missing spoons/pens/money, a sudden change in appearance and/or attitude, unexplained absences

## SHORT AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Short-term: constipation, vomiting, clouded thinking, slowed speech, slowed movement, slowed breathing, slowed heart rate, euphoria

Long-term: addiction, infections (Hepatitis C or HIV/AIDS), blood clots, collapsed veins, decreased sexual desire, menstrual cycle problems

## STREET NAMES

Buttons or beans—refers to the pill form of heroin  
Smack, Boy, Junk, H—refers to heroin in general  
Tar, China White, Cheese—refers to specific types of heroin

## HOW IT'S USED

Injected, snorted, smoked, or swallowed

## WHY IT'S DANGEROUS

Heroin is considered to be one of the most highly addictive substances known to man. It may cause immediate changes in the brain, which could lead to the brain disease of addiction. Heroin also affects the portion of the brain responsible for breathing, and it may cause a person to stop breathing completely and die. It may also cause someone to choke on their own vomit when they fall asleep after use. Because of this, someone can die after only one use.

For help or information, call NCADA at 314.962.3456 or visit [ncada-stl.org](http://ncada-stl.org)

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