Heroin

DRUG CLASS: Opiates

STREET NAMES: Smack, Junk, Tar, China White, Mexican Brown, Harry, Skag, H, Rufus, Perze, Dava, Boy.

WHAT IS IT?
Chemicals derived from the opium poppy plant. This class of drugs suppress pain and enhance pleasure senses.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOUR BODY?

AT FIRST:
- Heart beats slower.
- Breathe slower.
- Pupils shrink and eyes water.
- Skin on face, neck and chest turns red.
- Feel sick to your stomach. Vomit violently.
- Death.

OVER TIME:
- Lung damage.
- Lowers sex drive.
- Disrupts menstrual period.
- Constipation.
- Death.

MEDICAL RISKS:
There are many legal opiates such as codeine, morphine, dilaudid, percodan, demerol, and darvon, which are prescribed for acute and chronic pain conditions. Although these opiates have legitimate uses, they are still highly addictive and have similar short and long term effects of heroin. Many of these drugs are used to get high instead of the designated purpose. Possession of these medications without an appropriate prescription will lead to similar legal problems as possession of heroin or other drugs.

TRENDS:
Heroin use has dramatically increased in recent years following a decade where its use had decreased dramatically.

DEMOGRAPHICS:
Heroin use can be seen in all age groups. Typically use starts in early childhood and continues for 20 or 30 years. Use is often glorified by entertainers and rock stars.