



# Heroin

## What You Need to Know





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## More People Died from Drug Overdoses than Car Crashes and Gun Deaths in 2015

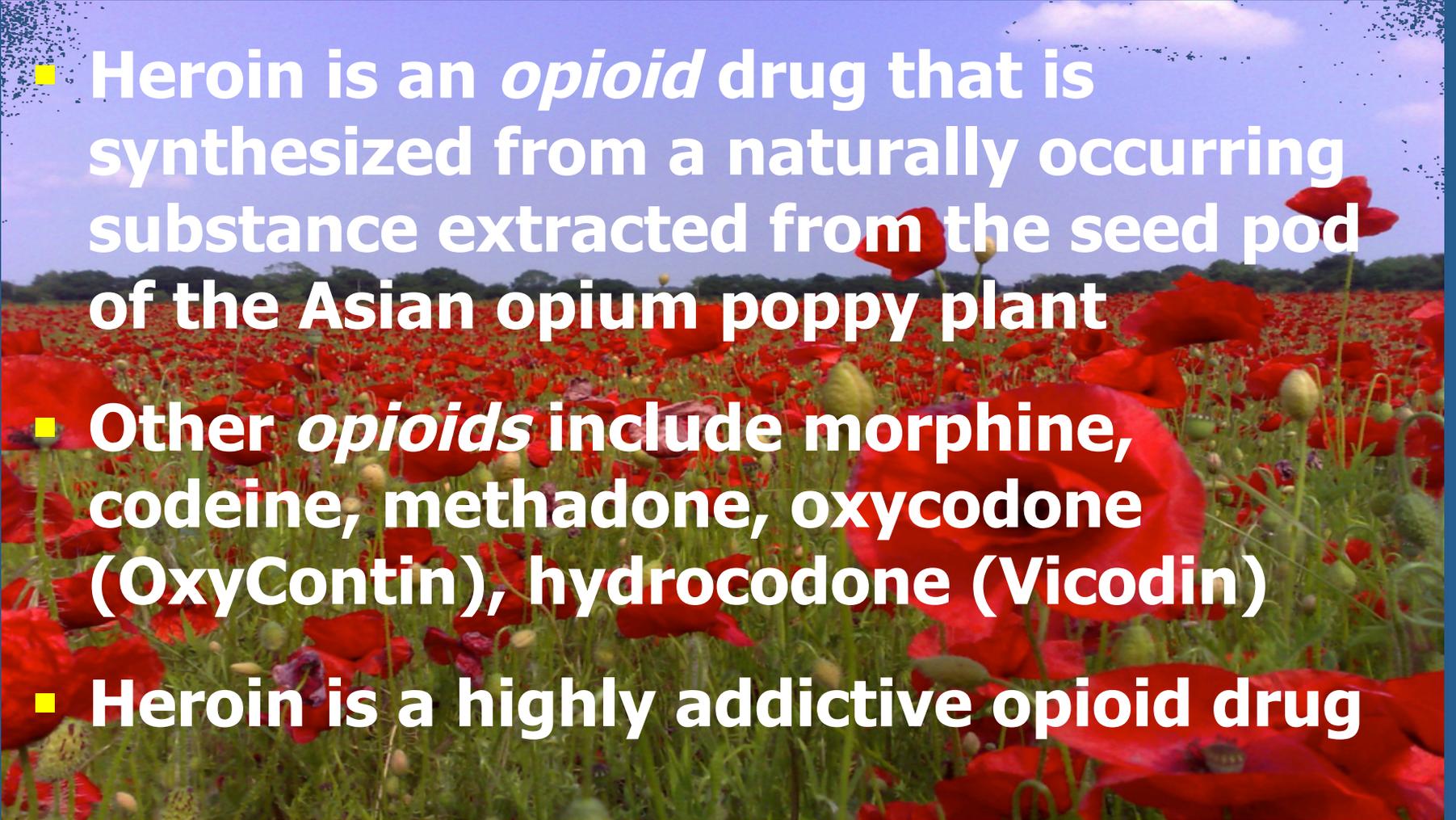
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**52,404** people died from drug overdoses  
(33,091 involved an opioid – including heroin)

**37,757** people died in car crashes

**36,252** died from gun related deaths  
(including homicides and suicides)

# What is Heroin

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- Heroin is an *opioid* drug that is synthesized from a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant
  - Other *opioids* include morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin)
  - Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug

# How Do People Use Heroin

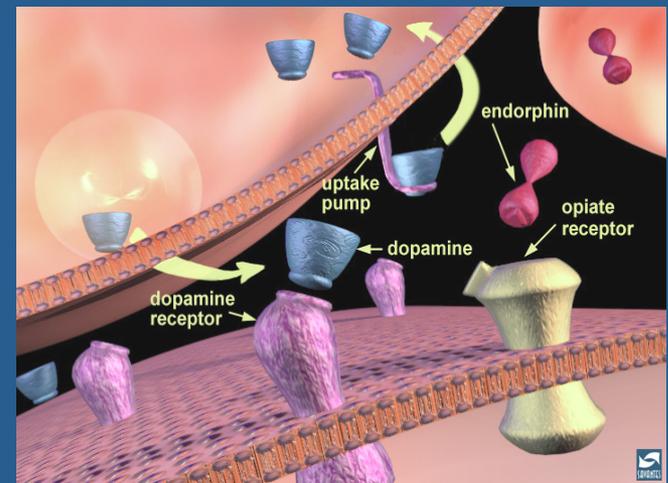
- Heroin is usually a white or brown powder
- Heroin can be used intravenous, smoked, orally and intranasal
- Highest Increase in Users:
  - 18 to 25-year-old white males
  - Increase in every demographic, race, gender and income level



# How Does Heroin Affect the Brain

- Heroin enters the brain rapidly and changes back into morphine
- Heroin binds to the opioid receptors on cells located in many areas of the brain
- Heroin especially affects the pleasure and pain receptors

*Source: NIDA Drug Facts on Heroin*



# Prescription Opioids and Heroin

- Prescription opioid pain medicines such as OxyContin® have effects similar to heroin
- Nearly 80% of Americans using heroin reported misusing prescription opioids prior to using heroin
- Prescription opioid misuse is a risk factor for starting heroin
- National survey shows that only a small fraction of people who misuse pain relievers switch to heroin

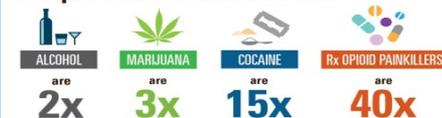
Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least  
**3** other drugs.

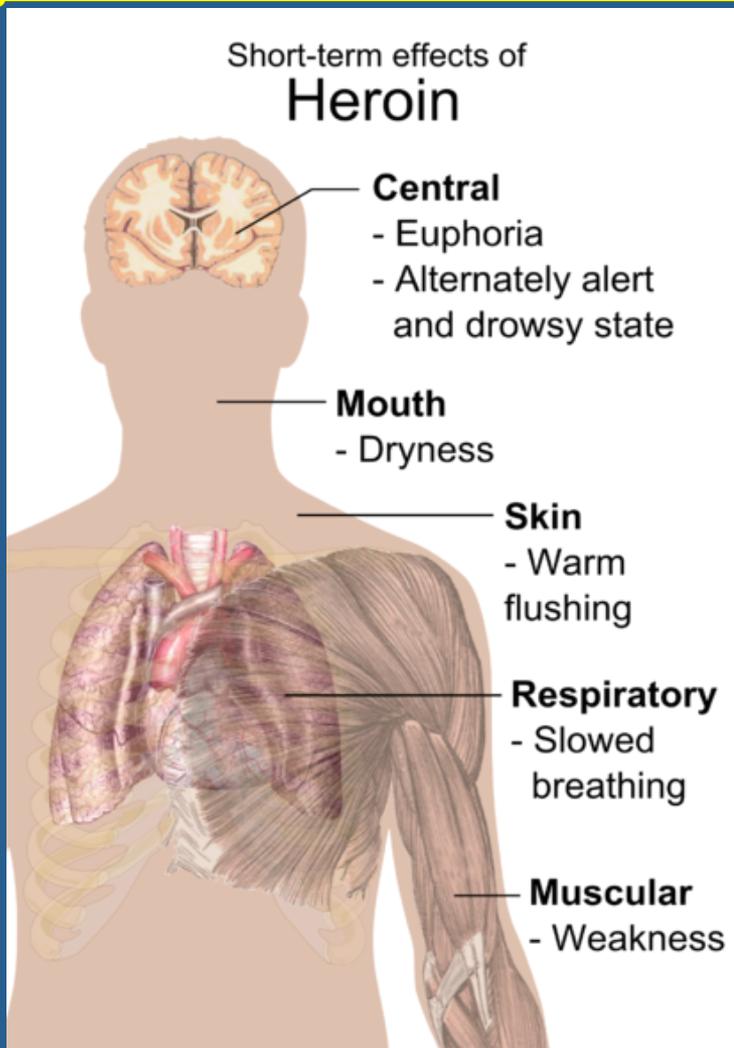
**Heroin** is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and **death** for users.

People who are addicted to...



...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

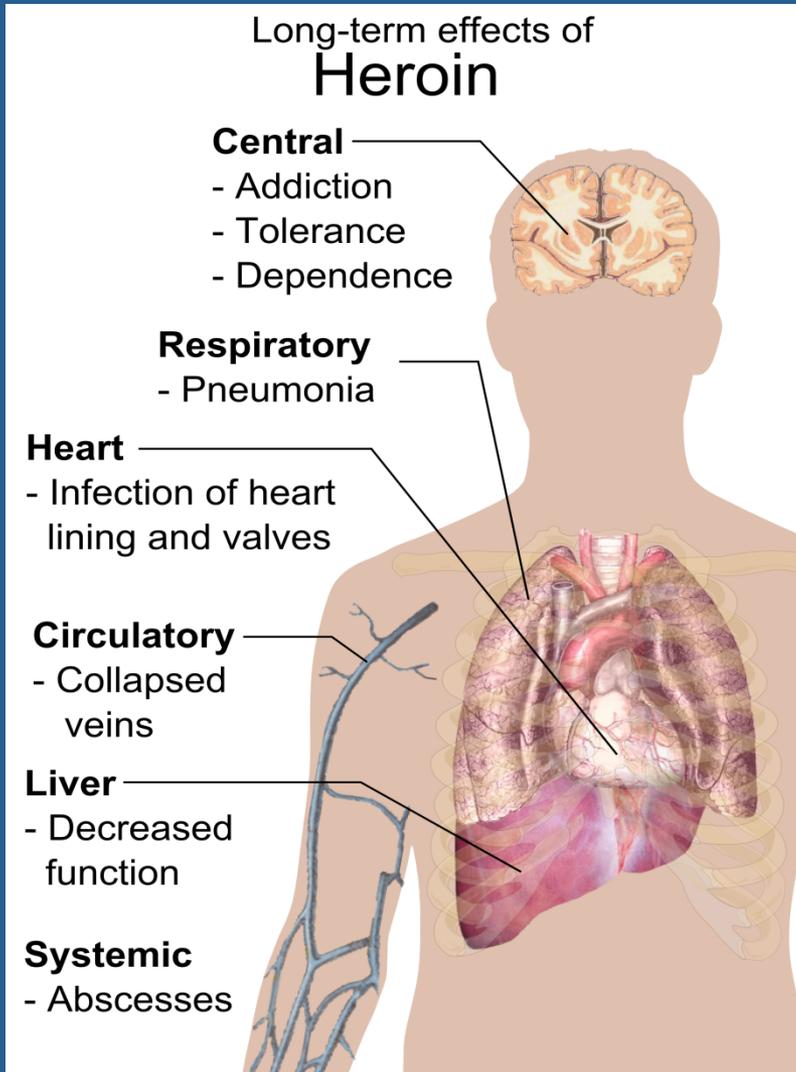
# Short-Term Effects



The effects of heroin can be felt very soon after the drug is taken

- **Initial surge of pleasurable sensation "rush"**
- **Dry mouth**
- **Warm flushing of the skin**
- **Slowed breathing**
- **Heavy feeling in the extremities**
- **Drowsy for hours**
- **Clouded mental functioning**

# Long-Term Effects

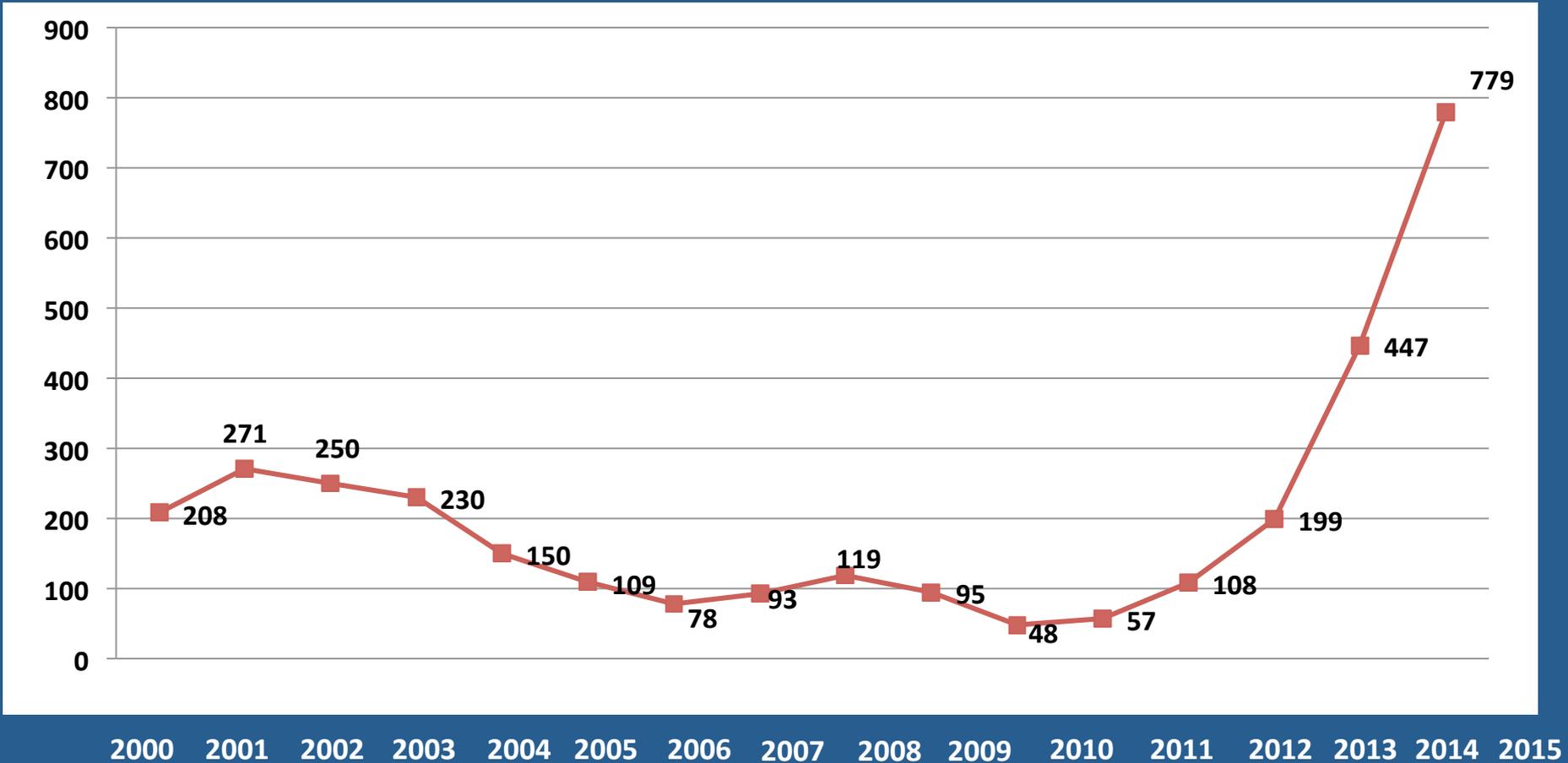


- **Addiction**
- **Develops collapsed veins**
- **Infection of heart lining and valves**
- **Decreased liver function**
- **Skin Popping → Abscesses, MRSA**
- **Infectious diseases → TB, HIV, Hepatitis C**

Long-term effects of intravenous usage



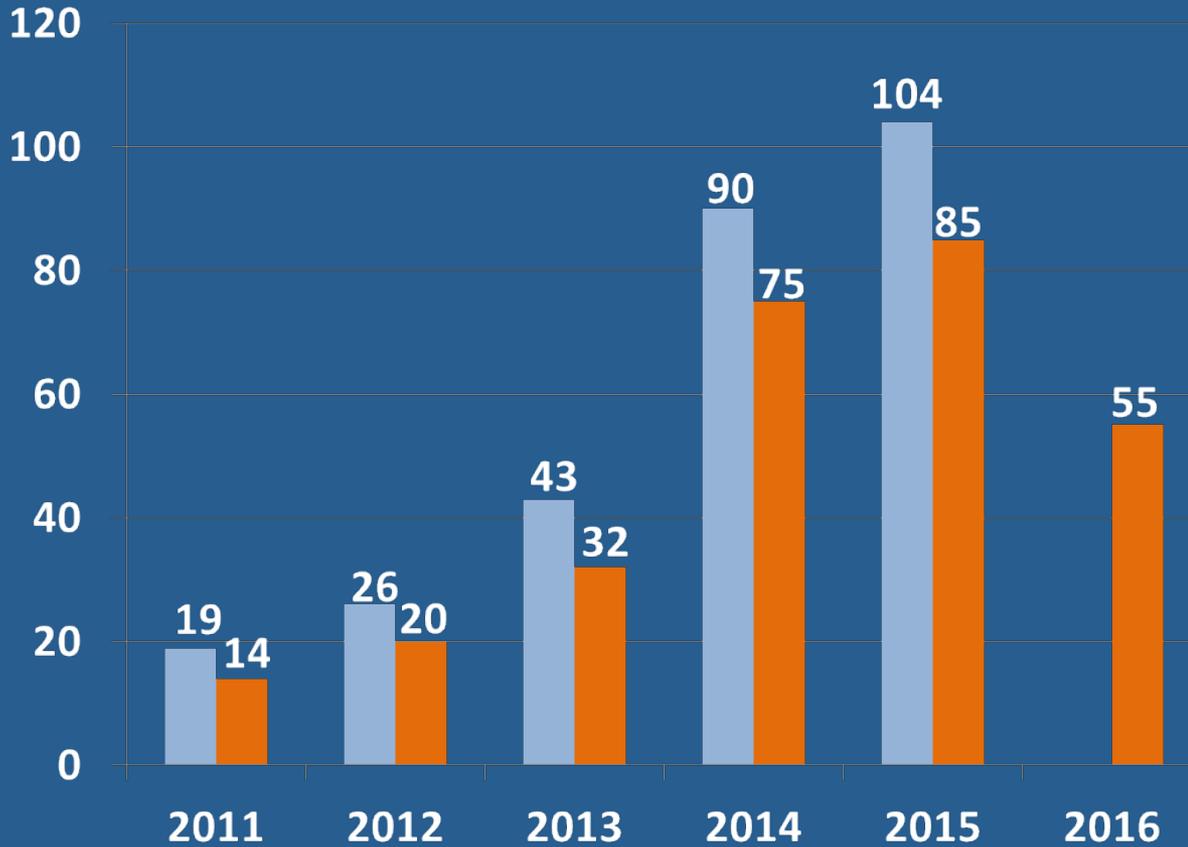
# FL Heroin-Related Deaths



**Heroin-Related Deaths in Florida increased by 290% from 2013 to 2015**



# Ninth Circuit Heroin-Related Deaths



Jan-Dec. 8  
(not complete year)

**HEROIN SPIKE**

HALF A MILLION AMERICANS ARE ADDICTED TO HEROIN

4 out of 5 new heroin users previously used prescription opioids non-medically

More than 8,000 people died from heroin overdoses in 2013

Source: CDC

Deaths from Heroin Overdose in the US

Year	Deaths
2010	~3,500
2011	~4,500
2012	~5,500
2013	~7,500

ALJAZEERA AMERICA

- Ninth Circuit – Orange & Osceola
- Orange County



# Fentanyl-Related Deaths

## District Nine Medical Examiner

- Emergence of illicit fentanyl mixed with heroin is causing overdoses and deaths in Florida and Orange County
- Illicit Fentanyl Analogues
  - Acetyl Fentanyl
  - Beta-hydroxy-thio-Fentanyl
  - Butyryl Fentanyl
- Florida Fentanyl-related deaths increased by 211% from 2013 to 2015 (292 to 911)
- As of December 8, 2016, there were 76 people in Orange County that died from an overdose involving fentanyl alone or in combination with another drug





# Fentanyl – Public Safety Alert



## Officer Safety Alert

Drug Enforcement Administration

### **Carfentanil: A Dangerous New Factor in the U.S. Opioid Crisis**

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The presence of carfentanil in illicit U.S. drug markets is cause for concern, as the relative strength of this drug could lead to an increase in overdoses and overdose-related deaths, even among opioid-tolerant users. The presence of carfentanil poses a significant threat to first responders and law enforcement personnel who may come in contact with this substance. **In any situation where any fentanyl-related substance, such as carfentanil, might be present, law enforcement should carefully follow safety protocols to avoid accidental exposure.**

### **Officer & Public Safety Information**

Carfentanil and other fentanyl analogues present a serious risk to public safety, first responder, medical, treatment, and laboratory personnel. These substances can come in several forms, including powder, blotter paper, tablets, patch, and spray. Some forms can be absorbed through the skin or accidentally

**10,000 Times More Potent than Morphine and  
100 times more potent than Fentanyl**



# Fentanyl Deadly “Super Pill” in Central Florida

- In April 2016, FDLE warned citizens about deadly “Super Pill” sold on our streets
- Counterfeit pills that look like Oxycodone, Percocet and Xanax
- The pills contain lethal amounts of Fentanyl
- Two confirmed deaths related to counterfeit pills in Orange County





# Can Someone Overdose on Heroin

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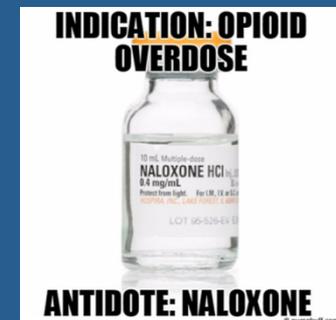
- **Yes, a person can overdose on heroin**
- **Overdose occurs when too much of the drug is used or when heroin is laced with illicit Fentanyl, which is potent and deadly**
- **When someone overdoses on heroin their breathing often slows or stops which can decrease the amount of oxygen that reaches the brain**

*Source: NIDA Drug Facts on Heroin*



# How to Treat a Heroin Overdose

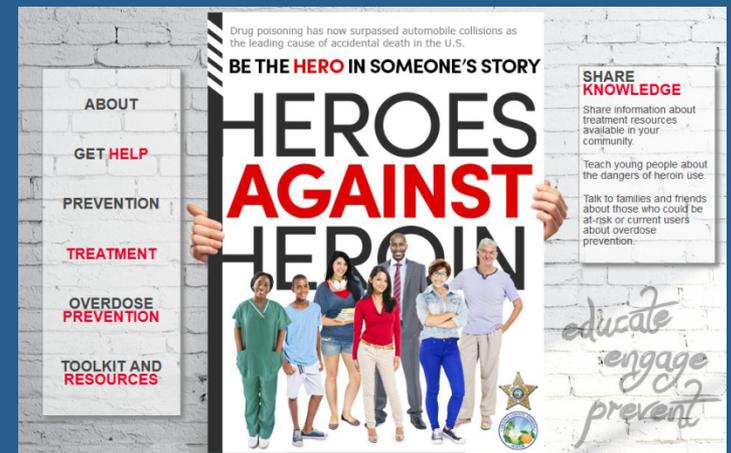
- **Naloxone can treat opioid overdose if given right away**
- **Works by blocking opiate receptor sites which reverses or prevents toxic effects of opioids**
- **Can be given intranasal or into the muscle**
- **Begins working in 2-5 minutes**
- **Naloxone typically wears off in 30-90 minutes and the person can overdose again**



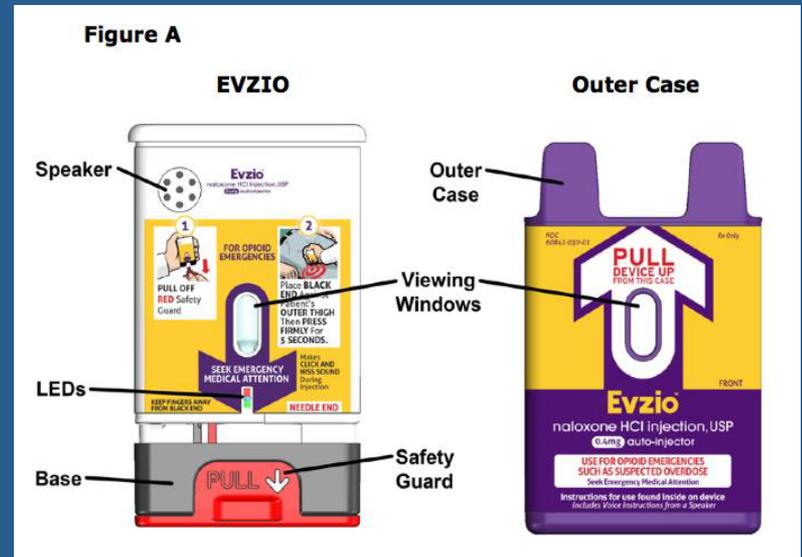


# How to Treat a Heroin Overdose

- **Call 911 immediately if you suspect a heroin overdose and administer naloxone if available**
- **A heroin overdose patient must be seen by the ER or physician**
- **For more information on Overdose Prevention- [ocflheroesagainstheroin.org](http://ocflheroesagainstheroin.org)**



# Types of Naloxone



**Naloxone can now be purchased without a prescription. Contact your local pharmacist for more information.**



# Treating Heroin Addiction

- Range of treatments include medicines and behavioral therapies effective for treating heroin
  - SAMHSA Medication-Assisted Treatment – [www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment](http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment)
  - Central Florida Cares Health System – [www.centralfloridacares.org](http://www.centralfloridacares.org)
  - Central Florida Treatment Providers (public and private) – [www.ocflheroesagainsttheroin.org](http://www.ocflheroesagainsttheroin.org)
  - 211 – Central Florida United Way Informational Helpline for Substance Abuse Information – [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)





# Points to Remember

- Heroin is an opioid drug made from morphine, a natural substance taken from seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant
- Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug
- Heroin can be a white or brown powder; people inject, snort or smoke heroin
- Heroin enters the brain rapidly and changes back into morphine
- People who use heroin report feeling euphoria accompanied by effects that include dry mouth, heavy feelings in their hands and feet and slowed breathing
- Misuse of prescription opioid pain medicine is a risk factor for starting heroin
- A person can overdose on heroin – Naloxone is a medicine that can treat heroin overdose when given right away
- Heroin use can lead to addiction
- A range of treatments, including medicines and behavioral therapies, are effective in helping people stop heroin use

*Source: NIDA Drug Facts on Heroin*



# Preventing Drug Use

- **Drug prevention starts early and requires parents, families and caregivers to stay involved in a young person's life**
- **Drug Prevention Resources**
  - **National Institute of Drug Abuse for Teens website**
  - **Family Checkup: Positive Parenting Prevents Drug Abuse, National Institute of Health**
  - **Navigating the Teen Years: A Parent's Handbook for Raising Healthy Teens, American Academy of Pediatrics**
  - **Keeping Your Teens Drug Free: A Family Guide, Office of National Drug Control Policy**
  - **Partnership for Drug Free-Kids**

**For more information-[www.ocflheroesagainstheroin.org](http://www.ocflheroesagainstheroin.org)**



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**For more information: [ocflheroesagainstheroin.org](http://ocflheroesagainstheroin.org)**  
**Contact the Orange County Drug Free Office 407-836-7335**