

Effects of Heroin

Heroin is a highly addictive, illegal Class A drug processed from morphine, a naturally occurring opiate extracted from the seedpod of certain varieties of poppy plants. Heroin is usually injected into a vein, but it's also smoked; added to cigarettes and cannabis. The effects are usually felt straight away. The effects take around 10 to 15 minutes if snorted.

This poster outlines the different effects heroin can have on the body. It must be noted that the effects will vary depending on the person and amount taken. In cases of overdose and even first use heroin can cause fatalities.

Short-term Effects

- Drowsiness
- Sedation
- Lethargy
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Dry mouth
- Confusion
- Constricted pupils
- Slowed heart rate
- Slowed respiration
- Low body temperature
- Light sensitivity
- Intense itching

Long-term Effects

- Depression
- Muscular weakness
- Partial paralysis
- Weakening of the immune system
- Memory loss
- Sleeping problems
- Damaged teeth
- Gum swelling
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Poor appetite & Malnutrition
- Lack of oxygen to the brain
- Risk of miscarriage
- Collapsed veins

