

# **HEROIN**

**DESCRIPTION** – First synthesized from morphine in 1847, heroin was not extensively used in medicine until the early 1900's. Commercial production of the new pain remedy was first started in 1898. While it received widespread acceptance from the medical profession, physicians remained unaware of its potential for addiction for years. The first comprehensive control of heroin occurred with the Harrison Narcotic Act in 1914. Today, heroin is an illicit substance having no medical use in the United States.

**PACKAGING** – Heroin is a powder sold in plastic bags measuring about 1 inch square. A waxy paper is folded to fit inside the plastic bag. Inside this folded paper is the heroin. The waxy paper is used so none of the heroin sticks to the paper.

**WHERE THE DRUG IS SOLD** – Heroin is sold just about anywhere. The main source of heroin in our area is Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

**METHODS OF USE** – Heroin can be smoked, sniffed, and injected. A liquid such as water or lemon juice is added to the heroin to liquefy it. It is then drawn up into a syringe and injected.

**STREET PRICES** – A bag of heroin can be sold as little as \$5.00. Heroin can be bought in a bundle, which is 10 bags of heroin, selling from \$50.00 to \$100.00

**STREET NAMES** – Horse, smack, H

**PHYSICAL EFFECTS** – Slow breathing, nodding off, unquenchable thirst, drowsiness, constricted pupils, constipation, lack of appetite, sex drive decreases, nausea, vomiting, clammy skin, coma, death.