

NARCOTICS



Facts About Drugs

WHAT THEY ARE

Names: codeine (schoolboy), heroin (junk, horse, H, Harry, scat, smack, scag, brown sugar), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), meperidine (Demerol), methadone, morphine, oxycodone (Percodan), pentazocine (Talwin), propoxyphene (Darvon), diphenoxylate (Lomotil), fentanyl, hydrocodone (Novahistex DH), levallorphan (Lorfan), MPPP, opium, pain killers

Type: narcotic analgesic as natural or semi-synthetic opiate; synthetic opioids

Forms: poppy juice, powder, solution, solid

Combinations: with cocaine or methamphetamine (speedball)

Usage: injected into bloodstream (mainlining, hit), muscle or under skin (skin popping); swallowed, smoked

Legal Status: illegal except as manufactured and prescribed by license

Other Forms: Narcotic combination compounds (ASA [aspirin] and oxycodone or codeine) are used for moderate pain from inflammation. Morphine, codeine and hydrocodone are used in cough suppressants. Morphine, opium and diphenoxylate (Lomotil) are used in anti-diarrhea medications. Opiates are used to relieve pain and for anesthesia.

WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE

orgasmic rush of pleasure, numbness, lack of pain, euphoria; anxiety, depression, nausea, constipation may occur as after-effects

WHAT THEY DO

To Your Mind: depress breathing and other brain centers; relieve pain and anxiety

To Your Body: depress all body systems

Special Characteristics: "Antagonists" such as methadone prevent narcotic effects from developing and reverse the acute effects. Sharp, localized pain is not relieved well by narcotic analgesics. Withdrawal effects for all narcotics can be severe.

HOW THEY CAN HURT YOU

- reduced sex drive
- chronic constipation
- tremors, muscle twitches and hyperactive reflexes
- nervousness and restlessness
- toxic psychosis
- seizures
- addiction
- death from overdose or drug-related illness (including AIDS)

WHEN TO GET HELP

- Do you think about how and when you're going to take drugs again?
- Is your work or school performance affected?
- Has your health changed?
- Are you having problems with family and friends?
- Are you spending more on narcotics than you can afford?
- Do you use a variety of drugs?

FACT:
All narcotics are addicting and dangerous.