



Dear Friend,

Heroin and opioid addiction has claimed the lives of too many young adults in New York State and across the nation. To address the chokehold it has on each individual we must work as a community to create a support system for those that want to stop taking these drugs, and prevent those that might be at risk for using heroin and opioids.

In this brochure there is background information about heroin and information to help families and individuals that are suffering from the consequences of addiction. It is my hope that with prevention methods, effective treatment programs and ongoing addiction therapy, we can save lives and bring an end to the rise of heroin and opioid addiction.

Sincerely,

Jim Tedisco



Senator James N. Tedisco
49th Senate District

Resources:

**New York State Combat Heroin
& Prescription Drug Abuse**
www.combatheroin.ny.gov
1-877-8-HOPENY (877-846-7369)

**New York State Office of Alcoholism and
Substance Abuse Services**
<http://www.oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp/>

National Institute on Drug Abuse
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/>

Narcotics Anonymous
<http://www.na.org/>

Nar-Anon Family Groups
<http://www.nar-anon.org/>
800-477-6291 (toll free)

New York State Department of Health
<https://www.health.ny.gov/>

(Source: www.drugabuse.gov)

or contact me:

DISTRICT OFFICE:
636 Plank Road, #205
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(518) 885-1829

SATELLITE OFFICE:
Fulton County Office Bldg.
223 West Main St., Rm. B2
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518) 762-3733

ALBANY OFFICE:
803 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-2181

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HOOKED : HEROIN INFORMATION AND HOW TO COMBAT ADDICTION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM



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HEROIN

DRUG FACTS

Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant. Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder or as a black sticky substance known as “black tar heroin.”

Heroin can be injected, inhaled by snorting or sniffing or smoked. Any of these routes of administration deliver the drug to the brain very rapidly, which contributes to its health risks and to its high risk for addiction.

Addiction is defined as a chronic relapsing disease caused by changes in the brain and characterized by uncontrollable drug-seeking, no matter the consequences.

Long-term effects of opioid addiction on the brain include:

Tolerance – more of the drug is needed to achieve the same intensity of effect.

Dependence – the need to continue use of the drug to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Heroin is associated with a number of serious health conditions, including death by overdose and infectious diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis. Chronic users can suffer from liver and kidney disease, collapsed veins, infections in the heart lining and valves, and permanent damage to vital organs.

Warning Signs

Substance abuse disorder is a progressive disease. Young people may start with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, but their use progresses until it is out of control. A key risk factor is the use of prescription pain killers.

Physical Signs

- Small pupils
- Decreased respiratory rate
- Non-responsive state - drowsiness
- Loss or increase in appetite or unexplained weight loss or gain
- Intense flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, sweating, shakes of hands, feet or head, large pupils

Behavioral Signs

- Change in attitude /personality
- Avoiding contact with family
- Change in friends or new hangouts
- Change in activities, hobbies or sports
- Drop in grades or work performance
- Isolation and secretive behavior
- Moodiness, irritability, nervousness, giddiness
- Stealing
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts out of season

Advanced Warning Signs

- Missing medications
- Burned or missing spoons or bottle caps
- Syringes
- Small bags with powder residue
- Missing shoelaces/belts

How to Stop the Abuse

First, talk to the person and keep an open line of communication. When a person is addicted to a substance, they will likely want to stop using but cannot and do not know how to stop the drug abuse. Let them know that substance abuse is a medical disorder and there is help available, such as treatment programs and medicated assisted treatment. Three medications have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of opiate dependence – buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone.

(Source: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/recovery/medication_assisted_treatment_9-21-20121.pdf)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin & Opioid Addiction was created in March 2014 with the mission of putting an end to the scourge of heroin across New York. In May, the Task Force released a comprehensive report with more than 30 recommendations, and numerous bills advanced by the Task Force were signed into law. The State Budget included \$189 million in funding to help address the challenging public health crisis caused by heroin and opioid abuse in communities throughout the state. This includes an increase of \$25 million above the Executive Budget proposal that was strongly supported by the members of the Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction to help strengthen abuse prevention, treatment, recovery, and education services. For more information, please visit www.nysenate.gov/committees/herointaskforce.