

The Controlled Substances Act

Chapter 13 of Title 21 of the US Code provides the foundation for the nation's laws related to illegal substances and drugs. It is commonly known as the Controlled Substances Act, or "CSA" and divides drugs into five "schedules" (I, II, III, IV, and V) based on the degree of severity of addiction and abuse, medical usage, and dependence associated with it.

- » **Schedule I:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and lacks the accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.
- » **Schedule II:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, but has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions. However, abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.
- » **Schedule III:** The drug or other substance has a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in schedules I and II; it has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. However, abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.
- » **Schedule IV:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III.
- » **Schedule V:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV.

Most of the drugs that are common in the illegal drug trade are found in Schedule I (including MDMA, LSD, heroin, GHB, cannabis) or Schedule II (cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, phencyclidine [PCP], and opium/opiates such as morphine and oxycodone).

Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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PUBLIC VICE AND DRUG TRENDS



Understanding the Risks and Dangers of Heroin

Recognizing the health hazards and community impacts of heroin



'Horsing' around with these poppy seeds can kill you.

Dangerous substances like heroin and other narcotic drugs are often accompanied by clever marketing or attractive names. But don't be tempted. Heroin can have extremely dangerous health effects and long-term impacts on your future.

What is Heroin?

Heroin is a powerful opiate pain-killer that produces euphoria and blissful apathy. It is known for its addictive properties and difficult physical withdrawal symptoms. Heroin is processed from morphine, which is a naturally occurring



substance extracted from the seed pod of certain poppy plants. A Schedule I narcotic, heroin is an illegal, highly addictive drug. It is both the most abused and the most rapidly acting of the opiates.

Origin and Description

Heroin production mainly stems from Mexico, Bolivia, Columbia, Peru, The Golden Crescent: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran, The Golden Triangle: Burma, Laos and Thailand.

Heroin is known by many names. Common street names include "Smack," "Horse," "Junk," "Black Tar," "Powder," "Dope," and "Blow."

What Does Heroin Look Like?

Heroin is typically sold as a white or brownish powder, or as the black sticky substance known on the streets as "black tar heroin." Although purer heroin is becoming more common, most street heroin is "cut" with other drugs or with substances such as sugar, starch, powdered milk, or quinine.

How is Heroin Used?

Heroin is usually injected, snorted, or smoked. Injection continues to be the most prominent method among abusers in the Washington, DC area. A typical heroin addict may inject the drug up to 4–5 times a day. Injecting the drug intravenously subsequently provides the user the greatest intensity and most powerful onset of the drugs euphoric effect. After injection, the user may feel the effects of the drug within seven to ten seconds.



What Are the Side Effects?

Heroin is a Narcotic Analgesic and is a depressant upon the body. Common side effects of heroin include pain relief, vomiting, drowsiness, euphoria, and nausea. Because it enters the brain so rapidly, heroin is particularly addictive, both psychologically and physically. Heroin abusers report feeling a surge of euphoria or "rush," followed by a twilight state of sleep and wakefulness.

What Are the Dangers of Heroin Use?

One of the most significant effects of heroin use is addiction. With regular heroin use, tolerance to the drug develops. Once this happens, the abuser must use more heroin to achieve the same intensity. As higher doses of the drug are used over time, physical dependence and addiction to the drug develop. Physical symptoms of heroin use include drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea, a warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth, and heavy extremities.

Because heroin abusers do not know the actual strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at a high risk of overdose or death. The effects of a heroin overdose are slow and shallow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.

Heroin users often don't even know what they are

getting as most street heroin is 'cut' with other drugs or substances such as sugar, starch, quinine, strychnine or fentanyl. Because the user doesn't know the actual strength or true contents of the drug they are at risk for overdose or death. And this risk presents itself day in and day out because the typical heroin addict will have to inject three to eight times a day, depending on their addiction.

Heroin Prices in the Washington Area

A typical street dose of Heroin is 50 – 70 mg (.05 – .07 g). The drug is commonly sold in these increments:

- » Street dose (50-70 mg): \$10 – \$20
- » One gram (1 g): \$75 – \$150
- » One ounce (28.3 g): \$3,000
- » "Kilo"/"key" (1 kg; 1,000 g): \$80,000 – \$125,000

Two separate types of street-level heroin are found in the Washington, DC area:

- » The first is a low-quality brand of 10 to 20 percent purity, which is cut and marketed as "scramble" or "beat."
- » The second is a higher-purity heroin known as "raw." This type of heroin commonly appears in rock-like chunks and can have a purity of approximately 75 to 95 percent.
- » Oftentimes, heroin is cut with dilutants such as mannitol or adulterants such as quinine before it's distributed, consequently yielding more product for sale which ultimately creates more profit.

Recognizing the Signs of Heroin Use

Repeated heroin use will often be accompanied by some predictable paraphernalia associated with its use. If you see these items around your home or in your neighborhood, the chances are good that heroin is being used.

- » Small ziplock baggies
- » Razor blades
- » Disposable latex gloves
- » Digital scales
- » Sifters/filters
- » Quinine or other "cutting" agent
- » Measuring spoon
- » "Works Kit" (syringe, spoon, saline, tie-off, lighter)