

# Heroin: An Equal Opportunity Killer

- The much publicized use of heroin and other drugs by celebrities, even the deaths of rock stars and celebrities from overdoses may have romanticized the use of drugs
- Heroin packaging is also designed to appeal to the youth market, and some packaging imagery appears to have gang affiliated symbols.

# Risks and Consequences of Use: Signs and Symptoms

↳ Heroin is a narcotic, a member of the opiate family of drugs. It is a derivative of opium which is made from poppy seeds

↳ The brain has opiod receptors

Heroin is an extremely addictive drug

↳ The effects of heroin include: a rush euphoria, followed by drowsiness and respiratory depression and constricted pupils

There have been numerous fatalities from heroin overdose locally and in neighboring communities among adolescents.

The rise in illegal drug use, particularly heroin and opiate based drugs including Oxycontin, among adolescents is being called an epidemic by many substance abuse professionals

The heroin available is so pure that snorting it can result in death

The young abuser finds it less repellent to snort heroin than to inject it

Once addicted the abuser may also inject

Injection may lead to HIV infection

Symptoms of an overdose include: vomiting, slow shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma and possibly death

Withdrawal is characterized by intense physical pain, watery eyes, irritability, nausea, chills, sweating, and agitation

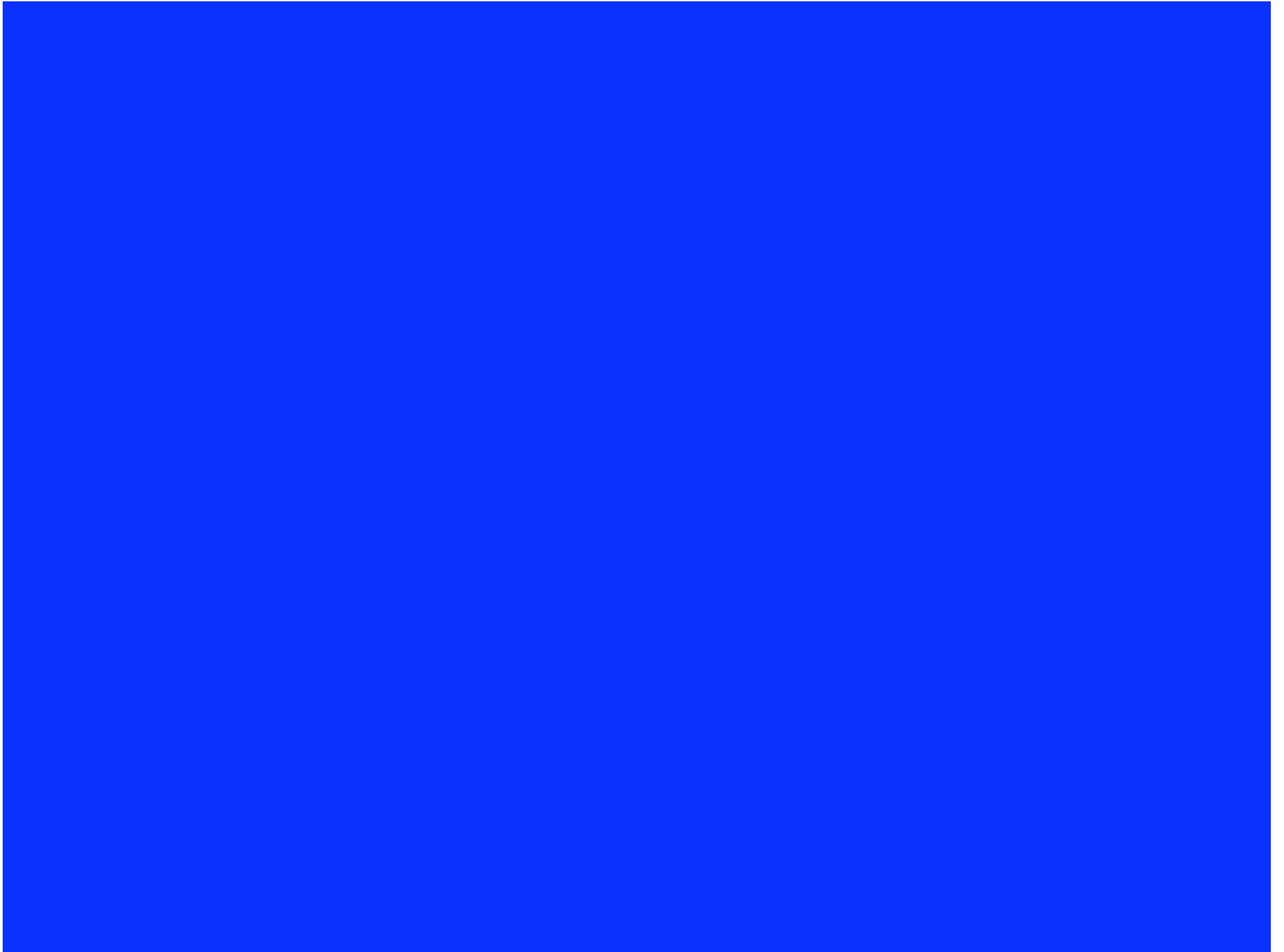
❧ Indicators of use: track marks for intravenous users, loss of weight apathy, lethargy, nodding off inappropriately, behavioral changes

❧ The heroin addict may have to engage in criminal activity to maintain their supply of the drug.

✎ The average user when admitted for rehabilitation is using 5 bags a day at a cost of 10-20 dollars a bag it is an expensive addiction

✎ The heroin addict will be devoted to maintaining the level of heroin in their body

✎ Everything else in their life will be secondary including school, family



# Prescription Drug Abuse

- The abuse of prescription drugs is a significant issue in both the adult and adolescent population
- Oxycontin, a powerful opiate based drug intended for medical use as a powerful pain reliever is a widely abused prescription medication. The effects of this drug are similar to heroin.
- “Blues” are another popularly abused morphine based pain reliever. It is appropriately prescribed for cancer patients and those in severe pain. It is a very powerful pain reliever, so it gets abusers very high, it is quite addictive when abused.
- The addictive properties of these drugs are similar to heroin.

# Blues



◆ There have been many fatal overdoses of these drugs

- There is a booming black market for Oxycontin . It sells for \$35 dollars a pill in some areas, making it extremely lucrative for dealers.
- Ritalin, Concerta and other stimulant drugs prescribed to treat ADHD are also popularly abused drugs. These pills are often ground up and snorted for a more immediate and intense effect. The abuse of these drugs is particularly popular on college campuses..

# ALCOHOL

- ▶ Alcohol remains the most widely used mood altering drug among adolescents
- ▶ Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant
- ▶ Alcohol is featured as a factor in most violent crimes and domestic abuse
- ▶ Alcohol is a factor in many fatal and otherwise serious car accidents

# Alcohol Facts and Statistics

- *We have lost more students to alcohol related incidents than any other substance related incidents.*
- Across the country, alcohol is the drug that is responsible for more *fatal* overdoses than any **COMBINATION** of drugs available.
- Between the hours of 11-3 in the morning, one out of every five drivers is intoxicated.  
(Prosecutors office)

# You Can't Afford the Consequences of Denial

- Follow your instincts. If you are concerned there is probably good reason to be concerned. A percentage of Middle School age students abuse substances, as do high school age students. A small percentage of younger students may also experiment with various things, including inhalants. The age of first use of ATOD is now down to 10 years old nationally.

# What To Do

- For a child who is obviously under the influence, seek medical attention.
- If you need guidance, regarding suspicions, or concerns generally, contact the Student Assistance Coordinator in your child's school. We have SACS at all of our secondary schools in Middletown
- If you suspect that your child is using , there is only one way to determine this with certainty, a comprehensive drug test. We can test your child therapeutically with your permission.

# We Are On The Same Side

- School personnel are charged with an awesome responsibility. We must educate your children and *ensure their safety at all times! In Loco Parentis is a serious responsibility.*
- We must work together cooperatively.
- These are challenging times , that require our best efforts. Together we can best provide a safety net for our students.