HEROIN

Heroin is an opiate drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant. Often appearing as a white or brown powder or a dark, black tar like substance, heroin is a highly addictive central nervous system depressant drug. Heroin can be used in several ways, including intravenous and intramuscular injection, smoking, or inhaling. Heroin is the most rapidly acting of the opiates.

Street Names
Black Tar, Chiva, Hell Dust, Horse, Negra, Smack, Thunder, Big H, Junk, Brown Sugar, Dope and H.

EFFECTS
The short-term effects of heroin use include euphoric rush, depressed respiration, nausea, vomiting, and clouded mental functioning. As higher doses of the drug are used over time, physical dependence and addiction to the drug develop. Long term effects include addiction, collapsed veins, infection of heart lining and valves, liver disease, and increased risk for infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B & C.
INCIDENCE & PREVALENCE
According to SAMHSA’s Drug Abuse Warning Network 2009 estimates, heroin was involved in 213,118 drug abuse related emergency department visits for that year. According to the IPRC 2011 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use By Indiana Children and Adolescents Survey, the monthly prevalence of injection drug use for 10th and 12th graders was at an all-time high. The most common drug that was injected was heroin.

LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has classified heroin as a Schedule I controlled substance. This means that heroin has a high potential for abuse and currently has no accepted medical uses. In the American prison system, the rates of heroin use are astounding, with over 23% of all state prisoners and 17% of all Federal prisoners admitting current heroin use.

Source: IPRC 2011 ATOD Use By Children & Adolescents Survey*
Monitoring the Future Study, Univ. of Michigan 2011**