

# HEROIN



Heroin is involved with five times as many Florida deaths as just a few years ago.<sup>1</sup>

Nearly 40 people die every day from an overdose death involving heroin in the United States.

Heroin use is increasing, and so are heroin-related overdose deaths.

## HOW IS HEROIN HARMFUL?

- ✓ Heroin is an illegal, highly addictive opioid drug.
- ✓ A heroin overdose can cause slow and shallow breathing, coma, and death.
- ✓ People often use heroin along with other drugs or alcohol. This practice is especially dangerous because it increases the risk of overdose.
- ✓ Heroin is typically injected but is also smoked and snorted. When people inject heroin, they are at risk of serious, long-term viral infections such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B, as well as bacterial infections of the skin, bloodstream, and heart.

## WHO IS MOST AT RISK OF HEROIN ADDICTION?

- ✓ People who are addicted to prescription opioid painkillers.
- ✓ People who are addicted to cocaine.
- ✓ People without insurance or not enrolled in Medicaid.
- ✓ Non-Hispanic whites.
- ✓ Males.
- ✓ People who are addicted to marijuana and alcohol.
- ✓ People living in a large metropolitan area.
- ✓ People between the ages of 18 to 25 years old.

SOURCE:

1. <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/Publications-and-Forms/Documents/Drugs-in-Deceased-Persons/2019-Annual-Drug-Report.aspx>



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County  
561.671.4014, [CHD50ContactUs@FLHealth.gov](mailto:CHD50ContactUs@FLHealth.gov)