

HEROIN PREVENTION PRESENTATION

EVERY SPIRAL HAS ITS START.



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HEROIN DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE

EVERY SPIRAL HAS ITS START.



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- Heroin cases rose in nearly every WI county over the last 3 years
- Heroin-related deaths up 50% in 2012
- 199 deaths (2012) vs. 29 (2000-2007)
- Affects people of all ages, races & socioeconomic groups
- WI teens 12-17 who have tried heroin: up 300% since 1995
- Prescription drugs are a gateway to heroin use



- Chicago and Rockford are the primary sources of Wisconsin's heroin supply
- Cities in Wisconsin have also become "source" cities: Milwaukee, Madison, Fox River Valley
- Users pool their money, travel to a source city, purchase, use, return to their homes and then distribute to friends



WHAT IS HEROIN

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- Highly addictive illegal drug that produces an intense, euphoric high
- Street names: boy, white, cheeva, brown sugar, H, Juan, tar
- Smoked, snorted or injected into bloodstream
- Sedative, like other opiates (oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine)
- High mortality rate





WHAT DOES HEROIN LOOK LIKE

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- Pure heroin: fine white powder
- Street heroin: grey, tan, brown
- Sometimes a black, tar-like consistency
- “Cut” with substances like sugar, caffeine, Benadryl, quinine
- Buyer is never sure of true contents or strength of each hit
- Risk of overdose (OD) with every use









WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU USE HEROIN

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- First use: intense, euphoric “rush”
- Flushed skin, “heavy” arms and legs, dry mouth, slowed breathing/heart rate
- Nods in and out of consciousness aka “on the nod”
- Next fix to just feel normal, “keep the sick off”
- Vicious cycle of use



SHORT-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF USE

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- Slowed breathing and heart rate
- Clouded thinking
- Drowsiness/sedation
- Nausea/vomiting
- Hypothermia/cold sweats
- Coma or death due to overdose from lack of oxygen to the brain



LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF USE

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- Collapsed veins from injections
- Infected blood vessels, kidneys, lungs or heart valves
- AIDS/contagious infections from needle sharing
- Respiratory illnesses
- Muscular weakness/paralysis
- Breakdown of immune system
- Coma or death due to overdose from lack of oxygen to the brain





EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF USE

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- Heroin addiction is a progressive condition
- The sooner a user receives treatment, the better
- Not always immediately apparent in young users
- Early, proactive involvement is key



WARNING SIGNS
A PERSON
MIGHT BE USING
HEROIN

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- Changes in friends/attitude/behavior
- Secretive meetings/hang-up phone calls
- Sickness/loss of appetite
- Nodding off/oversleeping
- Irritability/depression
- Blackouts/memory lapses
- Long sleeves in warm weather
- Money disappearing



HEROIN & PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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- Rx drugs: opiates for treating chronic pain
- Rx drugs and heroin are opiates that produce similar effects
- Adolescent brains are prone to addiction
- 2010 OxyContin reformulation
- Heroin as affordable, accessible substitute



IF YOUR CHILD IS ON PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS

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- Almost all young heroin users abuse Rx painkillers first
- Rx painkillers: “gateway” to heroin use
- Parent + physician closely monitor for proper use
- Prevent physical dependency from forming
- Discuss alternative pain treatments with physician



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT USE

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- Immediately seek professional help
- Formal assessment to determine needs
- Quick admission into treatment for best chance at recovery
- Be persistent in seeking assistance



IDENTIFY
SOMEONE
UNDER
INFLUENCE OF
AN OPIATE

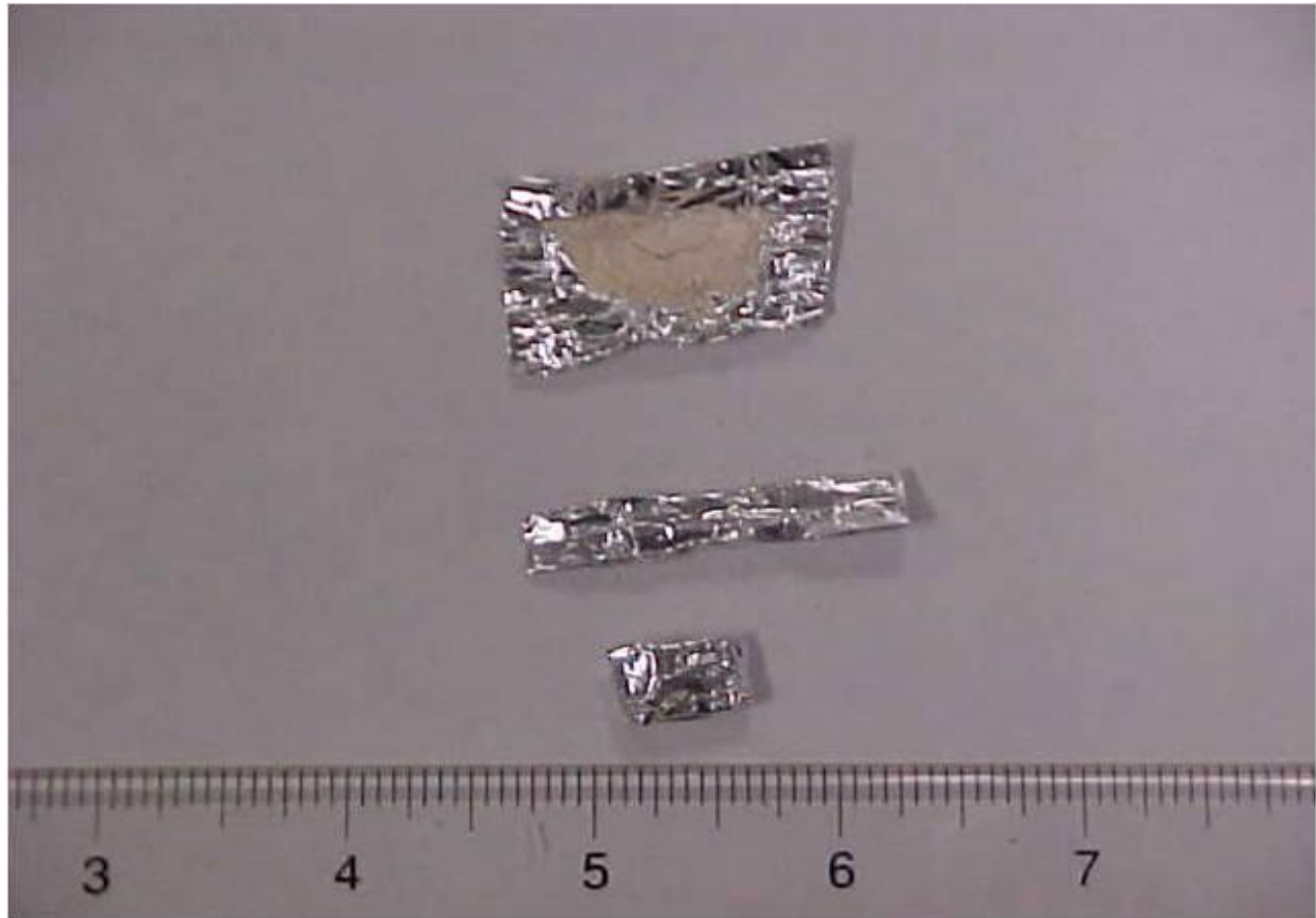
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- Drowsy
- Clouded mental function
- Constricted pupils
- Can still function
- Generally do not exhibit violent tendencies





LEARN MORE

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Visit TheFlyEffect.com

Experience the heroin spiral for yourself, learn more about its destructive power and hear from real heroin survivors right here in Wisconsin.

Visit Drugfree.org

The Partnership at Drugfree.org offers information and tools to help prevent and provide help for drug and alcohol abuse by young people.



GET HELP

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Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or visit
findtreatment.samhsa.gov

Free, completely confidential and available 24/7/365, SAMHSA's National Helpline and online Treatment Locator can help you find substance abuse treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations in your area.

