

TEEN HEROIN ALERT

Heroin affects the lives of young adults all over Anne Arundel County as well as their families and friends. Heroin is an **illegal** drug that is highly **addictive**—even after just one use. Five percent of high school students in our county have injected heroin.* An average of one person per day overdoses on heroin or on another opiate drug.**

Youth addicted to heroin often start by using what they think are less dangerous drugs, including prescription drugs from medicine cabinets. County residents ages 12 to 49 who illegally used prescription drugs are 19 times more likely than others in their age group to begin using heroin. Percocet or OxyContin can cost \$30 to \$75 per pill while street heroin can be as low as \$10. Heroin is **deadly**, especially if it is laced with highly dangerous drugs, such as fentanyl.



Symptoms of Heroin Use

- Nausea, vomiting
- Itching and scratching
- Constricted, pinpoint pupils
- Constipation, cessation of menstruation
- Weight loss
- Needle marks on arms and/or legs
- Dry mouth, runny nose, constant sniffing
- Droopy appearance, as if the extremities are “heavy”
- Nodding out mid-conversation
- Slowed speech



Symptoms of Heroin Overdose

- Victim appears sleepy, may be difficult to rouse or is unconscious.
- If conscious, victim may be disoriented or may be delirious.
- Speech is slurred; movements are sluggish, uncoordinated and weak.
- Breathing is slow, shallow and/or labored.
- Lips or fingernails may be tinged blue.
- Vomiting may occur.
- The tongue may be discolored and the mouth may be very dry.
- Pulse is weak and blood pressure is low.
- Pupils are small and “pinpointed.”
- There is loss of bladder control.

**For information on treatment,
call the Treatment Referral Line
at 410-222-0117.**

**If you think you see someone
overdosing, call 911.**

