

Prescription Drug Abuse in Tribal Communities: A Call to Protect our Elders, Children and Nations from an Epidemic



Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers to Heroin – The Switch is REAL

1 in 15 people who abuse prescription opioid pain relievers will try heroin within 10 years.*

WHY

Heroin has become cheaper and easier to get than prescription pain relievers.

BE IN THE KNOW

With 1 out of 5** youth misusing a prescription drug in elementary school, parents can no longer assume their child would never try heroin.

LISTEN

Heroin street slang is constantly changing but some of the most common street names for heroin include China White, Brown, Chiva, Black Tar, and H.

PROTECT

If a woman is pregnant, using heroin during pregnancy can lead to many complications. If the mother is regularly using heroin, the baby may be born physically dependent on heroin and could suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome, a drug withdrawal syndrome that requires hospitalization.

REVERSE OPIOID PAIN RELIEVER AND HEROIN OVERDOSES WITH NALOXONE

Overdose usually occurs when tolerance has decreased after a period of not using, when mixing drugs, and if drugs are cut with something stronger like fentanyl. Naloxone kits and training are available by calling Sonoran Prevention Works at 480-442-7086.

GET HELP

If you suspect a child, friend or family member is using heroin, urge them to get help right away. There are many treatment options, including medication assisted treatment, that are effective at helping individuals with substance user disorders return to stable, productive lives. Recovery is possible and there is hope. To talk with someone, call the toll-free helpline at 1-855-378-4373. If it's a crisis, call 911.

*National Institute of Drug Abuse

**Arizona Youth Use Survey, 2016