

DYING FOR A HIGH

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According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse overdose deaths from heroin have increased, and heroin use is on the rise. An estimated 23% of those who use heroin will become addicts. Long term addicts die more frequently from an overdose. Most people who die from a heroin overdose die because their bodies “forget” to breathe. An IV heroin user is 300 times more likely to die from infectious endocarditis than a drug overdose. Heroin use can also cause cardiac arrhythmias, pulmonary edema, heart attack and kidney failure.

As your tolerance to heroin develops, you need more to produce the type of high you are seeking, putting long term users at a greater risk of overdose. According to Dr. Karen Drexler, Emory University, a new user can overdose because they don't know how much of the drug to take. “Therefore, it is misleading to say you would not die if you only used heroin once or twice.”

According to the Trust for America's Health Indiana has the 17th highest drug overdose death rate in the United States. The number of people who die from an overdose has quadrupled from 1999 – 2010.

If you are a heroin user you need to get help. The sooner you seek help, the greater your chance is for a long-term recovery.

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