



*Investing in
partnerships to build
safe and healthy
communities*



Heroin + Other Opioids

From Understanding to Action

The epidemic ...

“The opioid epidemic is devastating American families and communities. To curb these trends and save lives, we must help prevent addiction and provide support and treatment to those who suffer from opioid use disorders.”

Dr. Tom Frieden

Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 18, 2015

The impact ...

- 47,000 deaths in 2014 due to drug overdoses ... more than car accidents
- More than six out of 10 drug overdose deaths in 2014 involved opioids, including opioid pain relievers and heroin
- 28 deaths per day from heroin alone

Understanding ...

- Heroin and other opioids, such as prescription painkillers, are all very similar at the molecular level.
- Increased misuse of prescription painkillers over the past decade has driven an increase in heroin use
- Fentanyl – an opioid that is 25-40 times as powerful as heroin – is being illicitly produced and sold and is driving overdoses
- Withdrawal from opioids is especially difficult

Action ...

Individuals can ...

- Talk with loved ones about the risks of opioid abuse and act to prevent early use of all drugs of abuse, including alcohol
- Monitor, safeguard, and properly dispose of unneeded medications
- Recognize the signs of opioid abuse and overdose
- Help a friend or family member find treatment and reduce the stigma around substance use disorders

Communities can ...

- Increase the quality and availability of treatment and support for recovery
- Make Naloxone available to reduced overdose deaths
- Implement local safe drug disposal programs

For additional information, visit: www.drugfree.org/heroin

For help and support, call the Partnership Helpline at:
855-DRUGFREE (1-855-378-4373)

Please complete an audience evaluation at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/hidta-audience