



GRAVE ALTERATIONS

Even though the DEA has taken steps to control Pink by classifying it as an illegal substance, manufacturers can simply tweak the chemical compounds to keep this deadly substance on the streets. As they're constantly altering the chemicals, you just never know for certain what you're taking and how it will affect you. One thing's for sure though—it won't be good.

Facts and Stats of Opiate Use in the United States

- A survey in 2010 revealed that of the 210 million opioid prescriptions filled, 12 million people admitted to abusing opioids by taking them for non-medical reasons.
- 75% of heroin users started out by abusing prescription opioids. Since Pink is still such a relatively new drug, there isn't enough data to clarify how many users started with prescription drugs.
- More people have died from opioid overdose than any other overdose of an illicit drug.
- More people die from opioid overdose than any other drug. Experts are describing the opioid epidemic as deadlier than the crack epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s.

The United States is not the only country to have a severe opioid abuse problem. People throughout Europe have also died from Pink, so countries like Sweden and Finland have been among the first to ban the drug.

TEST YOURSELF

1. All you used to need to purchase Pink was an internet connection and a credit card.
a. True b. False
2. Pink is an opioid, just like morphine, Percocet, or Vicodin.
a. True b. False
3. Which of the following is a side effect from using Pink?
a. Pinpoint Pupils b. Numbness
c. Death d. All of the above
4. "Not for Human Consumption" means the drug is safe to take.
a. True b. False
5. Pink is made from grounding up pink flower petals, so it's a natural substance.
a. True b. False

PINK



Answers: 1.A 2.A 3.D 4.B 5.B

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NOT SO PRETTY

SOUNDS HARMLESS

What is Pink?

No, not the color. Pink, also known as U-47700, is a highly dangerous and addictive opioid that is illegally circulating throughout the United States and is contributing to a national opioid abuse epidemic. Opioids have been designed to act on the central nervous system to relieve pain. Opioids like oxycodone, codeine or morphine have to be prescribed by a doctor for you to use them legally. Even then, doctors recommend using opioids only for a short time and in small doses because of how addictive they can be. Illegal opioids, like heroin, have pain relief qualities, but they can also lead to addiction, overdose or death. Pink has been described by drug abuse experts to be even more potent than heroin.

Because it's manufactured in labs in China and not found in nature, Pink is considered a synthetic drug. A common problem with synthetic drugs is inconsistency across batches. You just never truly know what you're taking. Even in small doses, Pink can be extremely toxic.

HOW DOES IT GET HERE?

Anyone with an internet connection and a credit card used to be able to just purchase Pink online. To avoid any kind of legal red tape, the manufacturers marketed the drug as a "research chemical." They also put labels that would state "Not for Human Consumption" or "For Research Purposes Only" to evade suspicion. It wasn't until people started dying that it was classified as a Schedule I Drug.



WHAT DOES PINK LOOK LIKE?

U-47700 usually comes in either powder form or as tablets, and it gets its street names "Pink" and "Pinky" from the light pinkish tint to the powder. Dealers also often put Pink in small, clear bags. What you're taking, however, is even more potent and dangerous than heroin. Pink can be snorted, swallowed or injected, and many of the side effects are the same for other opioids. The few lucky people who don't die from their first encounter report that the side effects don't last as long as heroin or morphine.

SIDE EFFECTS

- Euphoria and psychosis
- Sedation or numbness
- Severe analgesia—the inability to feel any pain
- Pinpoint pupils
- Constipation
- Itchiness
- Seizures
- Decreased heartbeat

SERIOUS PROBLEM

Deadly Solution

Most people don't just decide one day to pick up a needle and inject themselves with Pink, or even heroin for that matter. Drug abuse, in which hard drugs are involved, usually starts with receiving a prescription medication from a doctor, using it more or in a manner not prescribed, and becoming addicted. As you consistently use a drug, your brain becomes more tolerant to it, which makes you look for something more potent. Pink, though, could be the last drug you ever take.



PAUL'S STORY

Sitting hunched over on the edge of the bed in a dirty motel, Paul held the little clear bag in his hands. In the little bag was just a smidge of pinkish powder. His drug dealer said how awesome this stuff was, how it numbed away any pain he was feeling and how euphoric and psychedelic everything would become. Paul was a veteran, and even though he had lost his leg in the war, the trauma from losing all of his combat friends was even more painful.

What had started as an addiction to his sleep medication and painkillers had developed into a full-blown heroin addiction. After months of abusing heroin, even that wasn't enough to help him block out his memories and fill in the gaps he felt. Paul knew this stuff would be stronger than anything he had ever experienced, but it never occurred to him that the drug could kill him. Not from using it just one time.

Just as he was putting the pink powder into the syringe, the news channel that had been on in the background began to flash red with an urgent news report. As he turned up the volume, he began to hyperventilate as he realized what he was about to do. The very same drug that was in his syringe, that was about to be in his arm, had just killed two young boys in his neighborhood. "What in the world am I doing?!" Paul screamed out loud. The cold, sudden realization washed over him. He emptied the powder down the sink and broke his syringes. "I've got to get help," he thought to himself, "I can't keep living like this anymore."

