

Opinion: Why heroin costs less than cigarettes

By Lenny Bernstein, Washington Post

I'm no expert on the street price of heroin, but after talking to some people who are, I can tell you this: The illegal opiate at the center of the latest drug epidemic is very cheap. A couple of experts compared it to the price of a pack of cigarettes.

As a non-smoker, that sort of amazed me, so I decided to check. In many states, it is indeed true.

Ashley Kennedy, an addict currently in rehab, told me she could buy a bag of heroin in Baltimore for about \$5. According to this survey conducted by The Awl, a pack of cigarettes costs \$7.75 in Maryland. The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids put the price of a pack at \$6.45 in 2013. Either way, a single dose of heroin is less expensive than 20 smokes.

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