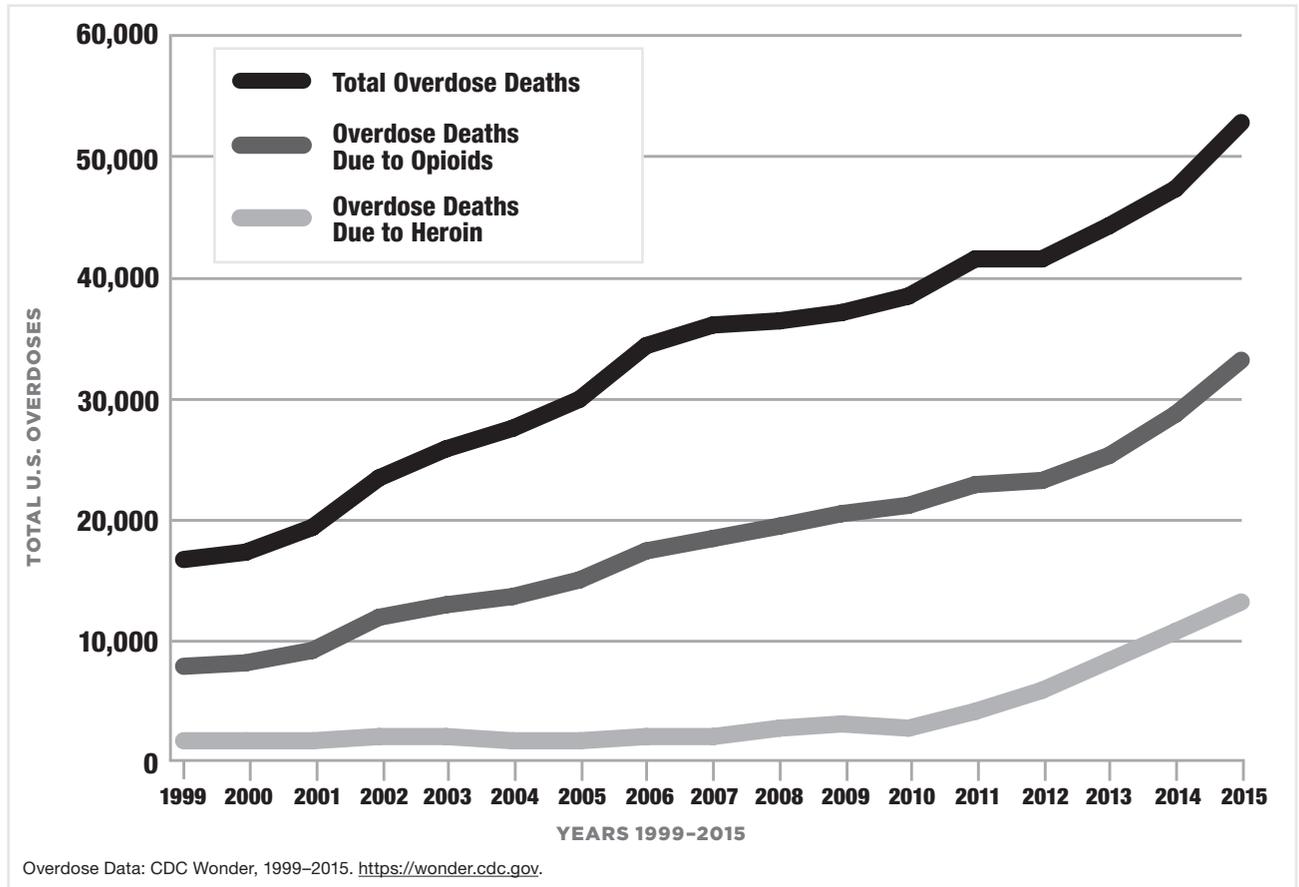


Opioids in America: Alarming Trends

Statistics show that opioid overdose is a public health emergency in America. In 2015, 3.8 million Americans reported that they had misused prescription painkillers in the last month. The use of heroin has also increased dramatically in recent years. Abusing these powerful drugs greatly increases a person's risk for overdose. Complete the activity below to analyze statistics of the opioid crisis.

Directions: Study the graph below, which has been modified from the graph shown in the article "Opioids and the Overdose Epidemic." Then, use the information in both graphs and the article to answer the questions that follow.



- How is the graph above different from the graph shown in the article?
- According to the graph, roughly what percentage of the opioid overdose deaths in 2015 were due to heroin?
- What are two possible factors that may have impacted the change in heroin overdose deaths over time?
- What evidence is there that the recent increase in drug overdoses is due mainly to opioids?
- What are three possible reasons that the number of drug overdoses related to opioids has increased in recent years? Use evidence from the graphs and the article to support your answer.
- Drugs that can reverse the overdose effects of opioids, such as naloxone, are normally given only by medical personnel. Do you think these medications, as well as training to administer them, should be readily available to all people? Explain your answer.