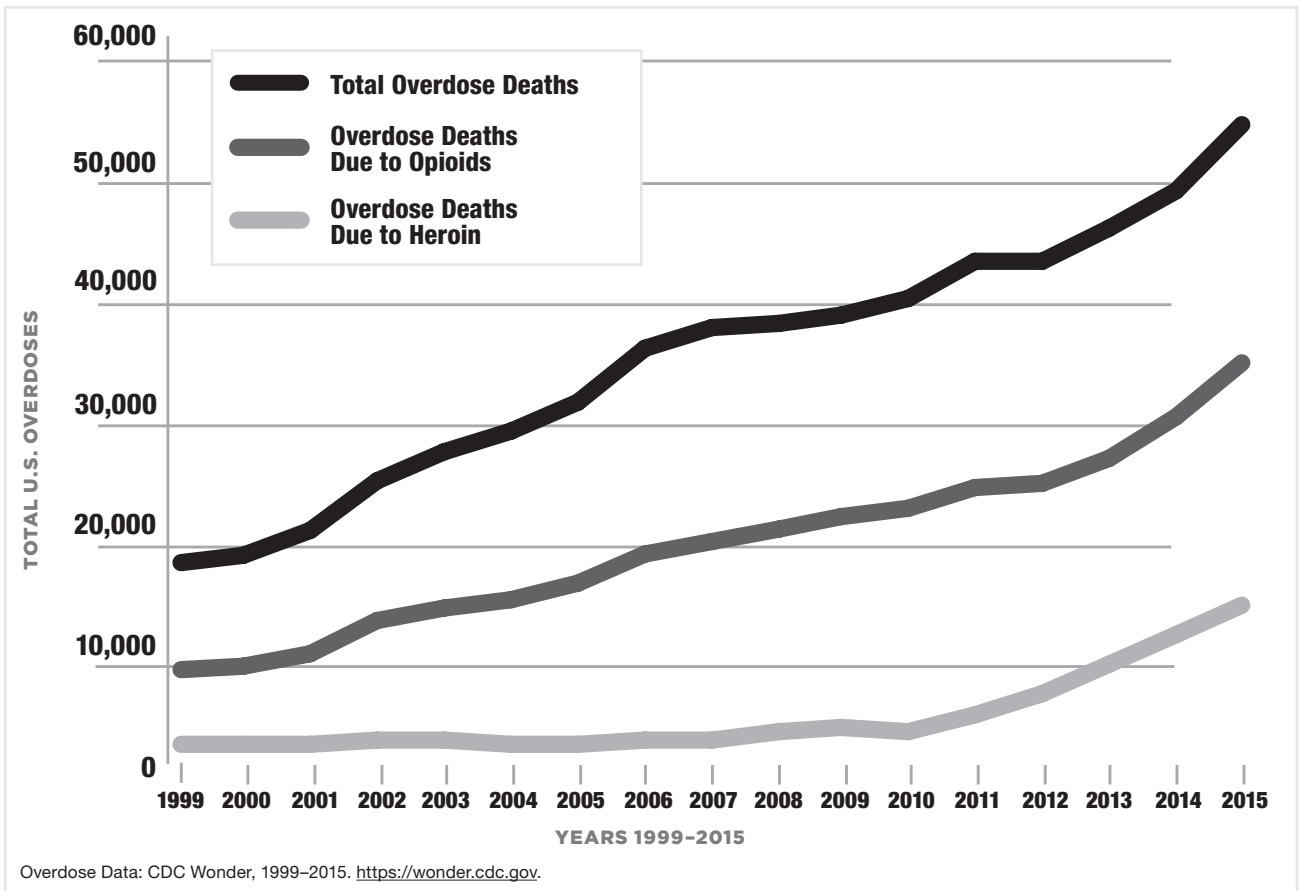


Opioids in America: Alarming Trends

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

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



- How is the graph above different from the graph in the article?
- According to the graph above, roughly how many deaths in 2015 were due to heroin?
- Name one factor 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 is one possible reason that the number of drug overdoses related to opioids has increased in recent years?
- Naloxone is a drug that medical professionals use to reverse the overdose effects of opioids. Do you think naloxone should be available for everyone to use? Explain your answer.