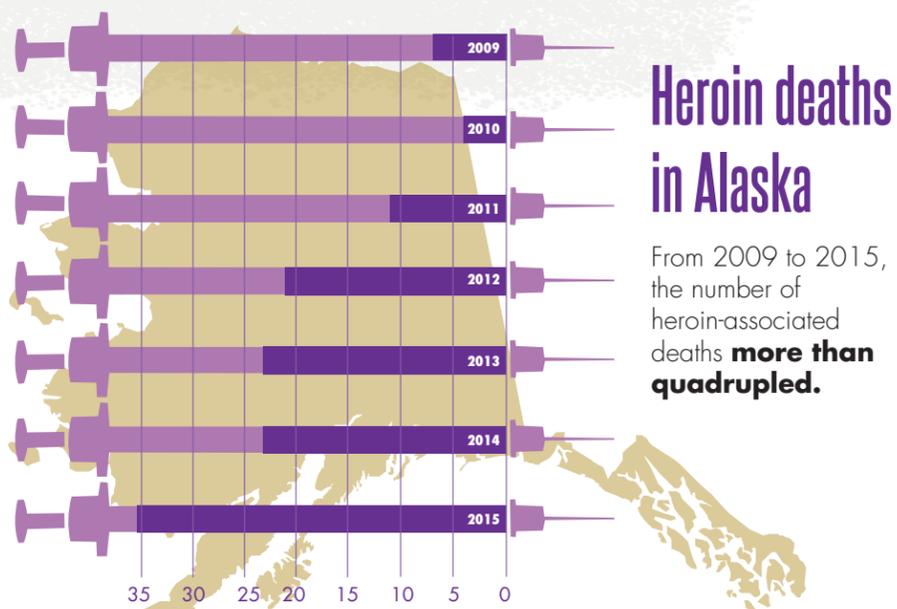
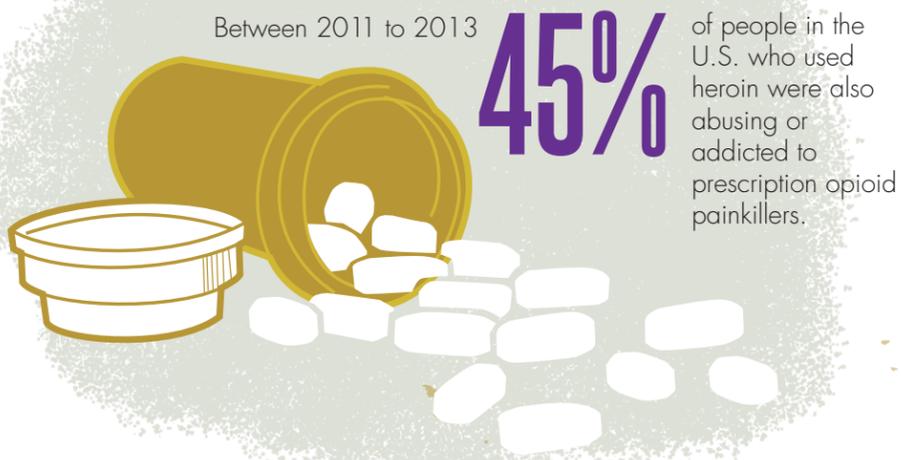




HEROIN USE IS ON THE RISE IN THE LAST FRONTIER



The number of people reporting **heroin dependence or abuse** in the United States more than doubled between 2007 and 2013.



From 2009 to 2013 in Alaska **Heroin arrests increased 140%** from 64 to 151.

The amount of heroin seized in Alaska has increased 18-fold from 3 pounds in 2009 to 55 pounds in 2013.

The number of Medicaid health care services payment requests for heroin poisoning increased almost ten-fold from 2004 to 2013.



Health care in Alaska

Inpatient hospital discharge rates coded for heroin poisoning increased almost six-fold from 2010 to 2012.

Average inpatient costs: **\$30,000**

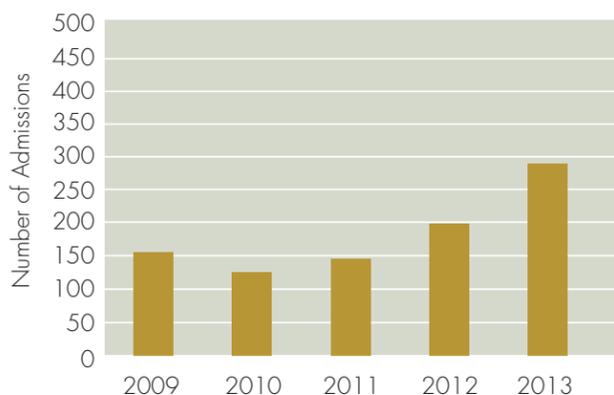
Public health impact of heroin use:

- Deaths
- Higher health care costs due to substance abuse treatment and long-term health problems such as liver, kidney, cardiovascular, and arthritic diseases
- Increased transmission of HIV and hepatitis C virus because of people sharing needles
- Increased crime
- Decreased stability in families and communities



Drug abuse treatment

The number of treatment admissions for patients from 21 to 29 years old who report heroin as their primary substance of choice increased by 74 percent between 2009–2010 and 2012–2013.



What can be done?

- **PREVENT** dependence on opioid drugs
- **REDUCE** addiction by recognition and treatment
- **REVERSE** the life-threatening effects of overdose

Want to learn more?

dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/default.aspx