



## ALASKA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

*This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of Alaska.*

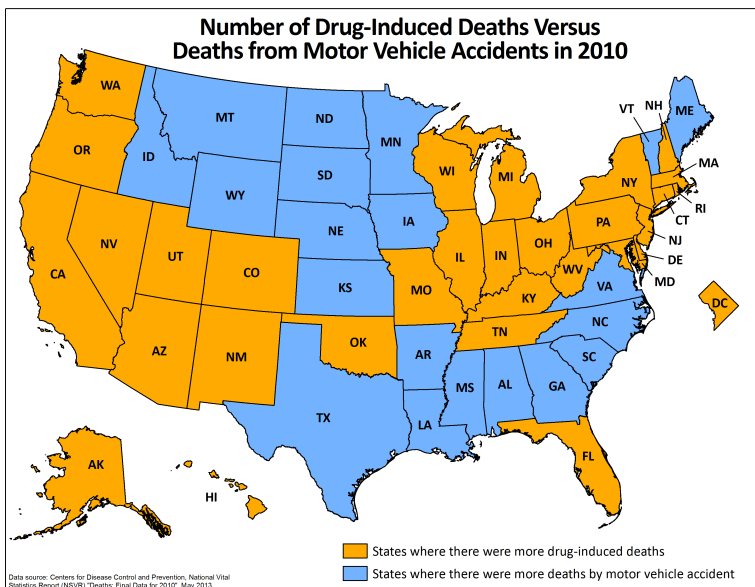
### Alaska At-a-Glance:

- In 2010-2011, Alaska was one of the top ten states for rates of drug-use in several categories, including: past-month illicit drug use among persons age 12 or older; past-month illicit drug use among young adults age 18-25; past-month marijuana use among persons age 12 or older; past-year nonmedical pain reliever use among persons age 26 or older; and illicit drug dependence or abuse among persons 12-17.  
*Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2010-2011.*
- Approximately 13.65 percent of Alaska residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8.82 percent.
- In 2010, the rate of drug-induced deaths in Alaska was lower than the national average.

## Drug Use Trends in Alaska

**Drug Use in Alaska:** The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 13.65 percent of Alaska residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. Additionally, 3.62 percent of Alaska residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.33 percent).

*Source:* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2010-2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA11-4641/SMA11-4641.pdf>



**Drug-Induced Deaths:** As a direct consequence of drug use, 84 persons died in Alaska in 2010. This is compared to the number of persons in Alaska who died from motor vehicle accidents (71) and firearms (144) in the same year. Alaska drug-induced deaths (11.8 per 100,000 population) were lower than the national rate (12.9 per 100,000).

*Source:* WONDER online databases: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfi-icd10.html>

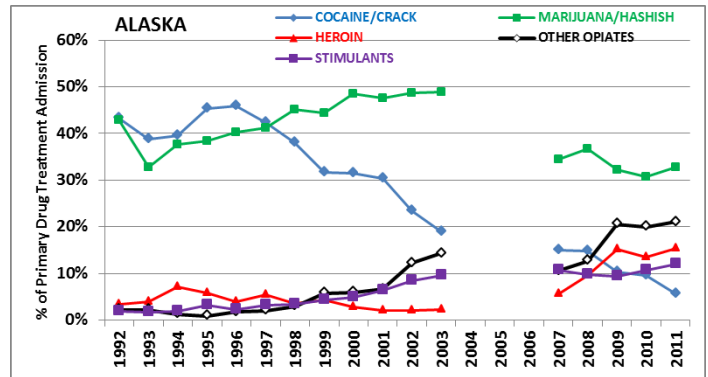
## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

## Alaska Primary Treatment Admissions:

The graph on the right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Alaska from 1992 to 2011. The data show that marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state, followed by "other opiates" (including prescription drugs).

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#teds>

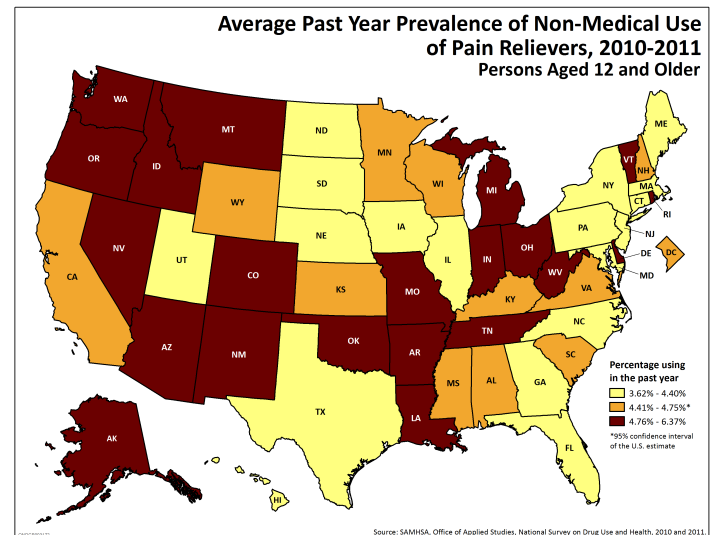
Note: The Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) does not display data from 2004-2006 for Alaska.



## Prescription Drug Abuse

### ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

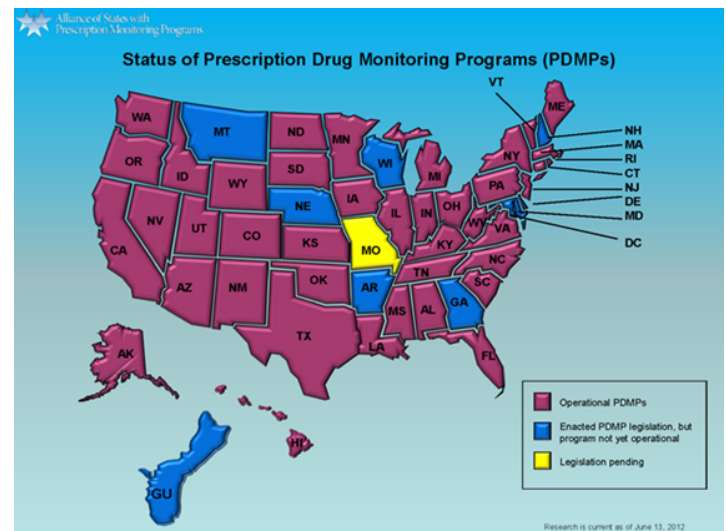
Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan entitled **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



### State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Forty-one states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 9 states and territories have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

Alaska's operational PDMP, **The Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**, was established in 2008, requiring the Alaska Board of Pharmacy to establish and maintain a controlled substances prescription database



for the reporting of dispensed prescriptions for all schedule IA-VA controlled substances under state law and Schedule II-V controlled substances under federal law. By March 2013, the PDMP will be provided by Health Information Designs, LLC.

### **State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs**

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

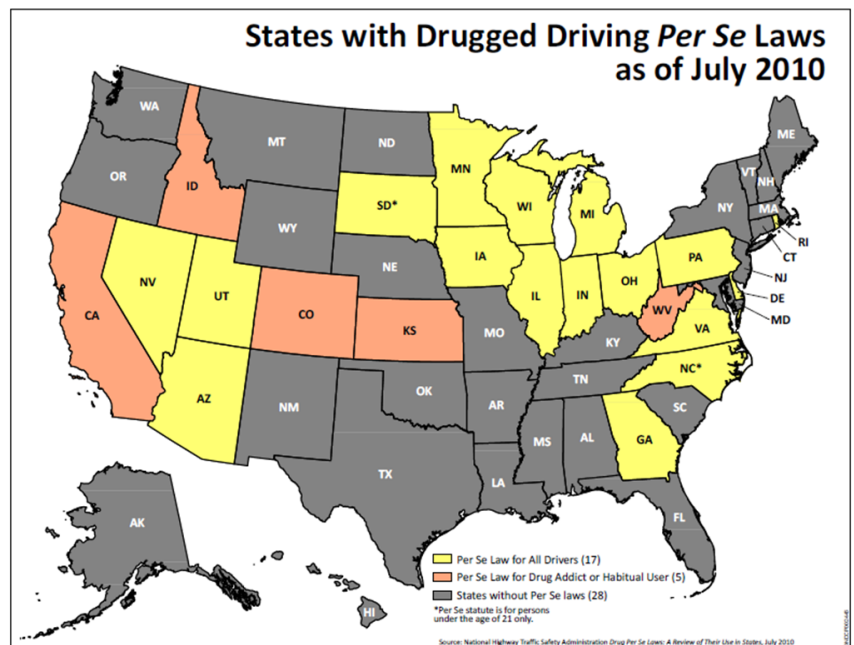
## **Drugged Driving**

### **ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving**

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.

### **State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment**

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.



**Alaska does not have an operating *Per Se* standard.** However, Section 28.35.030 of the Alaska Statutes states that “a person commits the crime of driving while intoxicated if the person operates or drives a motor vehicle while under the influence of any controlled substance or while the person is under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance.” Refusal to submit to a drug test is admissible in civil and criminal cases.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## **ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention**

## National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including those in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug abuse and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

## The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2013, the following Alaska coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Anchorage Youth Development Coalition
- Community Action Coalition for Prevention (Soldotna)
- Fairbanks North Star Borough COMPASS II Coalition
- Communities Mobilizing for a change on Alcohol
- Mat-Su Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy [http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee\\_map.html](http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html)

## Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of Alaska

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2012, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2012, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of AK	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>\$ 1,934,605</b>
<b>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</b>	
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 1,934,605
<b>Department of Defense</b>	<b>\$ 4,045,000</b>
<b>The Army</b>	
National Guard ChalleNGe Program	\$ 4,045,000
<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>\$ 5,643,199</b>
<b>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	\$ 5,643,199
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	<b>\$ 31,562,853</b>
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	\$ 1,412,530
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	\$ 354,298
<b>Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>	
Medical Assistance Program - Grants to States for Medicaid To Treat Substance Abuse	\$ 11,279,726
<b>National Institutes Of Health</b>	
Alcohol Research Programs	\$ 406,872
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>	
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	\$ 4,903,771
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$ 300,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$ 9,796,598
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services-Access to Recovery	\$ 2,709,058
<b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>	
Healthy Start Initiative	\$ 400,000
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	<b>\$ 3,879,611</b>
<b>Community Planning and Development</b>	
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	\$ 299,308
Shelter Plus Care	\$ 999,312
Supportive Housing Program	\$ 2,580,991
<b>Department Of Justice</b>	<b>\$ 6,242,558</b>
<b>Office of Justice Programs</b>	
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 1,380,508
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program	\$ 72,601
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	\$ 148,766
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Allocation to States	\$ 400,000
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	\$ 46,053
Tribal Court Assistance Program	\$ 3,012,251
Tribal Youth Program	\$ 1,182,379
<b>Department of Transportation</b>	<b>\$ 5,517,184</b>
<b>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</b>	
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	\$ 953,248
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	\$ 4,563,936
<b>Department of Veteran's Affairs</b>	<b>\$ 355,527</b>
<b>Veterans Health Administration</b>	
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program	\$ 355,527
<b>Executive Office of The President</b>	<b>\$ 875,000</b>

Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of AK	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
<b>Office of National Drug Control Policy</b>	
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants	\$ 875,000



File updated 07/31/13.