



## ASSESSMENT OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Central Peninsula

Southern Peninsula

Seward



### Learn

Identify needs, services,  
gaps, and perceptions.



### Engage

Educate and empower  
community members.



### Connect

Connect the Kenai  
Peninsula, save lives.

# Highlights

of the 2017 Assessment

- Coalition History
- Assessment Data & Methods
- Facts & History of the Opioid Problem
- 2017 Assessment Findings
- Intervening Variables
- Community Factors
- Connectivity & Suggestions

2017

# KENAI PENINSULA ASSESSMENT OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Central Peninsula • Southern Peninsula • Seward



C4K



Data & Methods



The Opioid  
Problem



Findings



Intervening  
Variables



Community  
Factors



Connectivity

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**Change 4 the Kenai**





## CHANGE 4 THE KENAI

Change 4 the Kenai is a coalition that is united to work toward connecting our community. C4K is currently dedicated to understanding the local increasing prevalence of injection drug use and the dire consequences. We plan to implement harm reduction programs and to break the stigma of addiction within the community through education.

### OUR MISSION



Connect community, save lives.

### OUR VISION



We envision a healthy and safe community built on the foundation of independence that our residents embrace while connecting community to ensure that everyone matters.

### OUR VALUES



Active & accessible peer network

Wellness recovery

Engaged & empowered community

Community resource network

Affordable, accessible transportation

Local, sustainable economy

[CHANGE4KENAI.ORG](https://change4kenai.org)



## COALITION TIMELINE

**2014**

C4K Coalition Founded  
Prevention Grant Awarded

**2015**

Community Behavioral  
Health Needs Assessment  
Completed for Central  
Kenai Peninsula

**2016**

Capacity Building & Town  
Hall Meetings  
PFS Grant Awarded

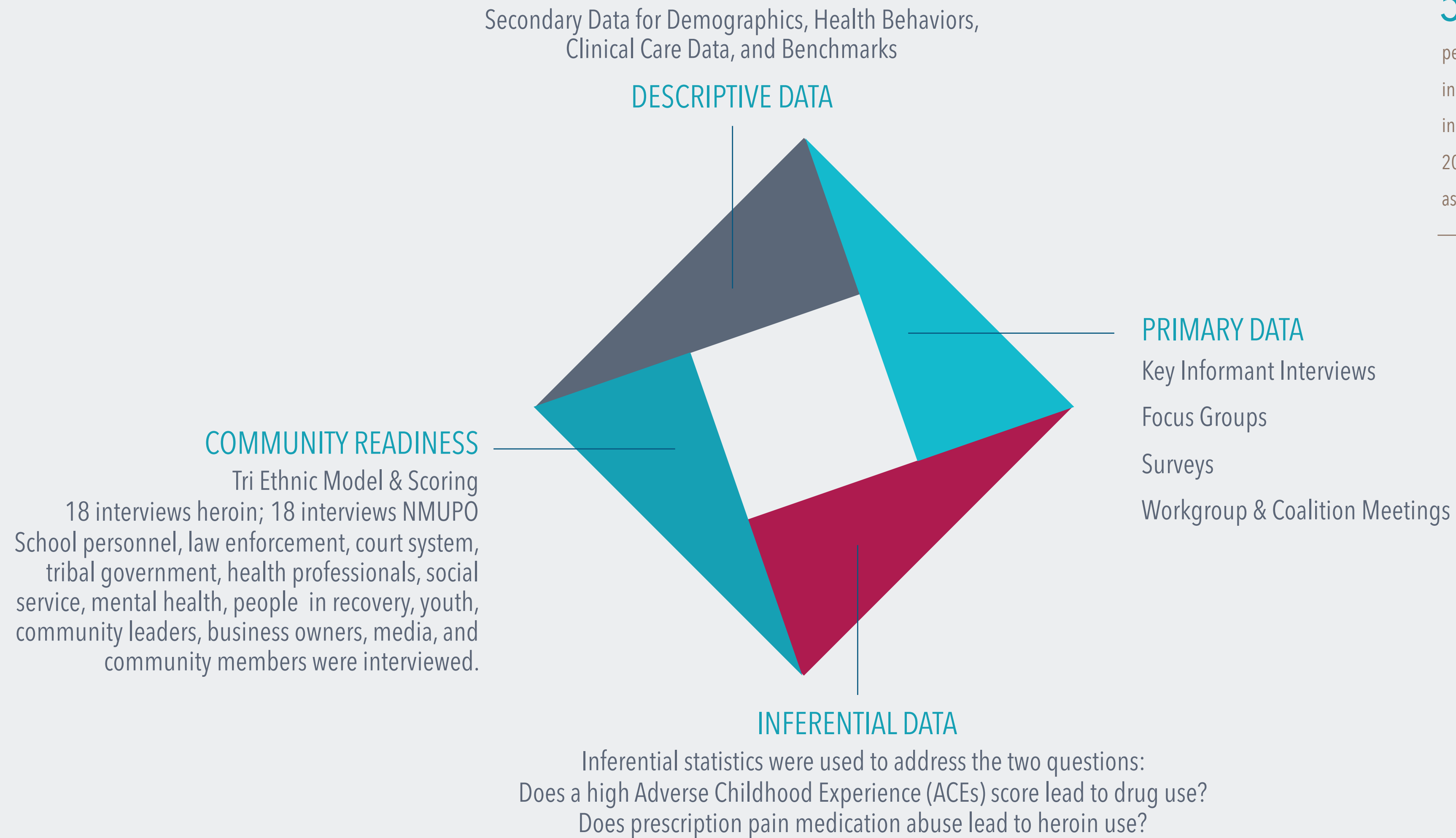
**2017**

2017 Kenai Peninsula  
Assessment of the Opioid  
Epidemic Completed  
Capacity Building &  
Education

**FUTURE**

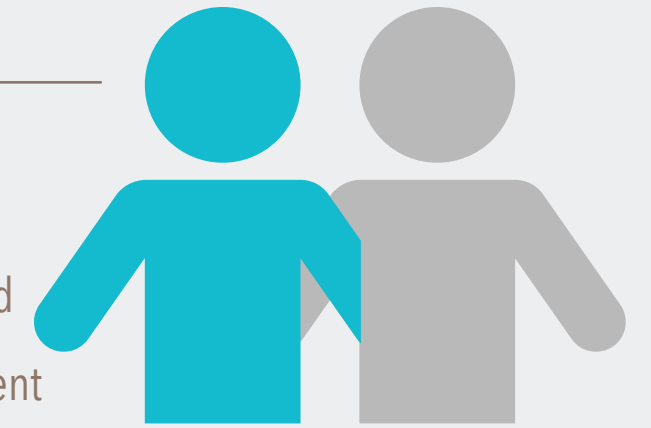
Capacity Building  
Prevention  
Education  
Community Building





510

people had  
independent  
input on the  
2017  
assessment



## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM



ALCOHOL ABUSE IS THE LARGEST SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUE ON THE KENAI PENINSULA. BUT USE TRENDS ARE STEADY.



THE RATES OF INJECTION DRUG USE AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF USE ARE DRASTICALLY GROWING AND MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.



## FACTS & HISTORY OF THE OPIOID PROBLEM ON THE KENAI PENINSULA

"WHEN YOU ARE DONE (READY TO STOP DRUG ABUSE), YOU JUST GO GET THE MEDS AND GET RID OF YOUR HEP C OR AIDS OR WHATEVER".

"IT'S LIKE, I HAVE HEP C, YOU HAVE HEP C, SO WERE GOOD TO GO (SHARE NEEDLES)."

**Focus groups and interviews revealed a large gap of knowledge around personal risk and consequences of drug use - specifically injection drug use.**

## FACTS & HISTORY OF THE OPIOID PROBLEM ON THE KENAI PENINSULA

HEP C  
HIV/AIDS  
ABSCESSES  
INFECTIONS  
ENDOCARDITIS  
INJURY

Used  
Needles

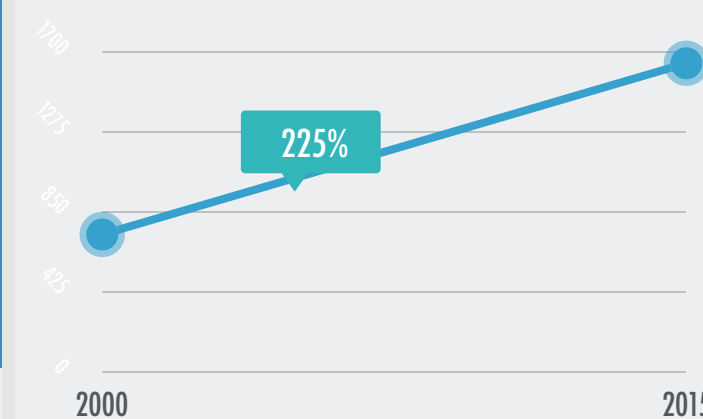
### Consequences

Contaminated needle use leads to adverse health consequences such as spread disease (Hep C & HIV/AIDS), abscesses, infections, and more

Hep C

### Hepatitis C

Alaska rates of Hep C have more than doubled in the last 15 years



HEP C RATES  
GULF COAST AREA  
2011 - 2015  
OVER 45% INCREASE



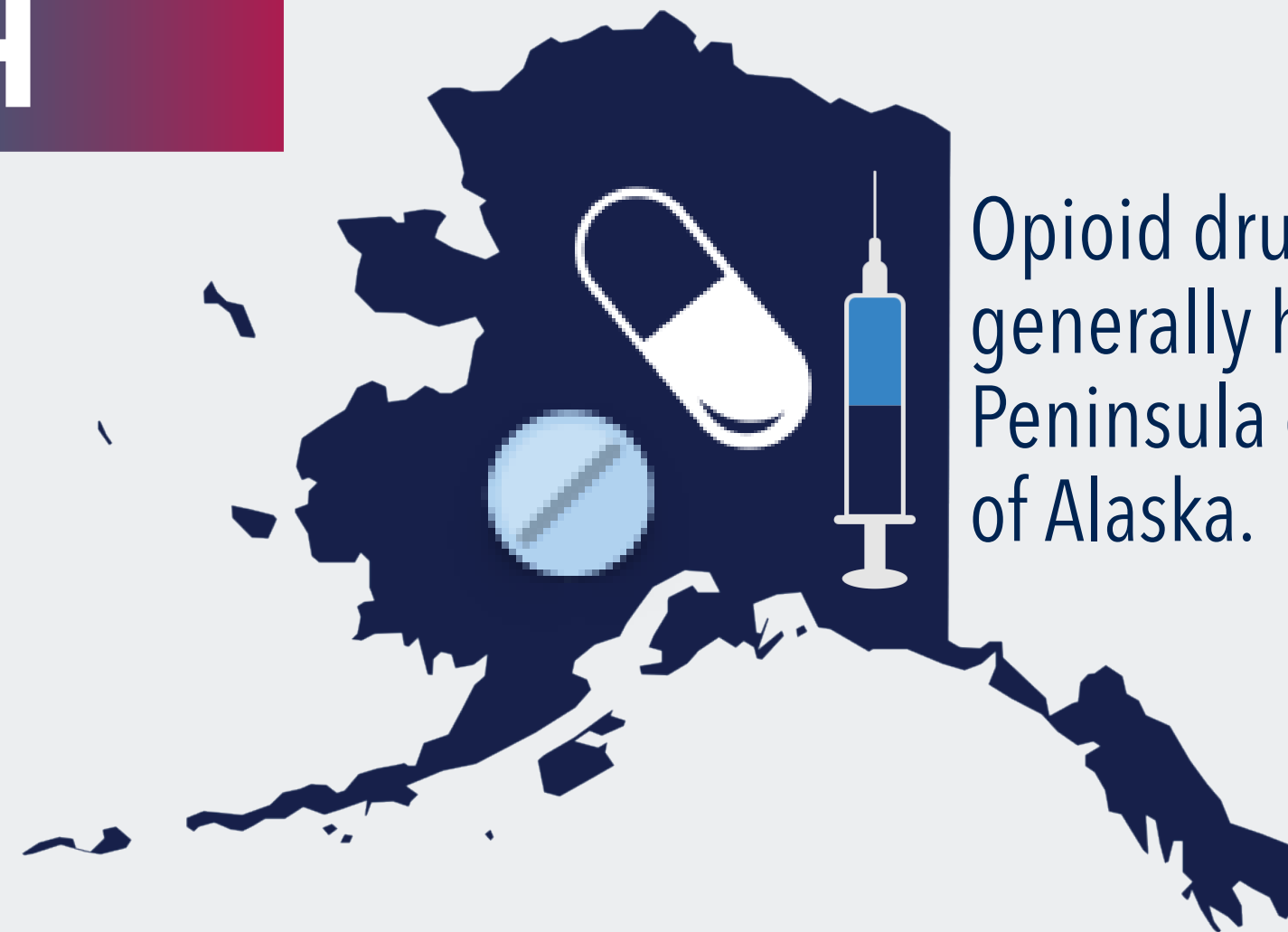
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23 new Hep C diagnoses of 252 Serenity House patients in 12 months (2016).

THE CONSEQUENCES OF UTILIZING DIRTY NEEDLES FOR IV DRUG ABUSE ARE:  
UNDERESTIMATED BY USERS  
INCREASING IN PREVALENCE



# YOUTH



Opioid drug use in youth is generally higher on the Kenai Peninsula compared to the rest of Alaska.



FROM 9TH - 12TH GRADE,  
ALL USAGE TRENDS  
INCREASE.

BOYS ARE MORE LIKELY TO  
USE THAN GIRLS



4.8



1.7

# YOUNG ADULT



## Rx

It is unlikely that opioid prescription use turns into addiction.

03



## Friends & Family

When young adults did abuse prescription opioids, evidence suggests that the drugs came from friends and family.



## Messaging

Young Adults are exposed to messaging about drug use but there is room for improvement.



## Storage & Disposal

Education on safe storage and proper disposal is largely needed.

04



# COMMUNITY



YOUNG ADULTS WERE MORE  
CONNECTED TO SCHOOLS  
AND THE COMMUNITY THAN  
EXPECTED.



THE YOUNG ADULT SURVEYS BOTH  
DEMONSTRATED LOW RATES OF  
SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN THIS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHIC.

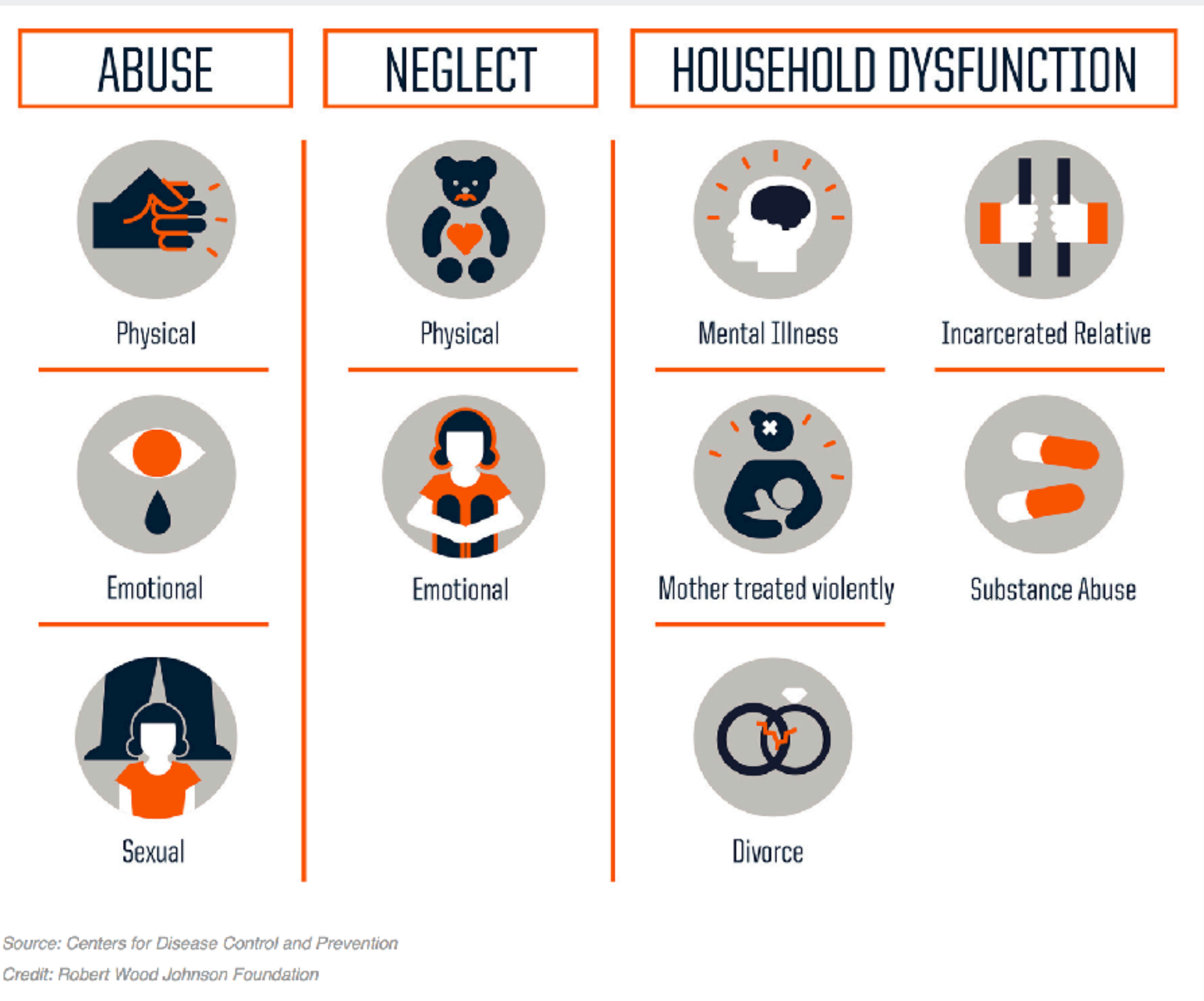
# ACES

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES SURVEY

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were a significant predictor of subsequent substance use and represent a stronger relationship with heroin than prescription opioid abuse.

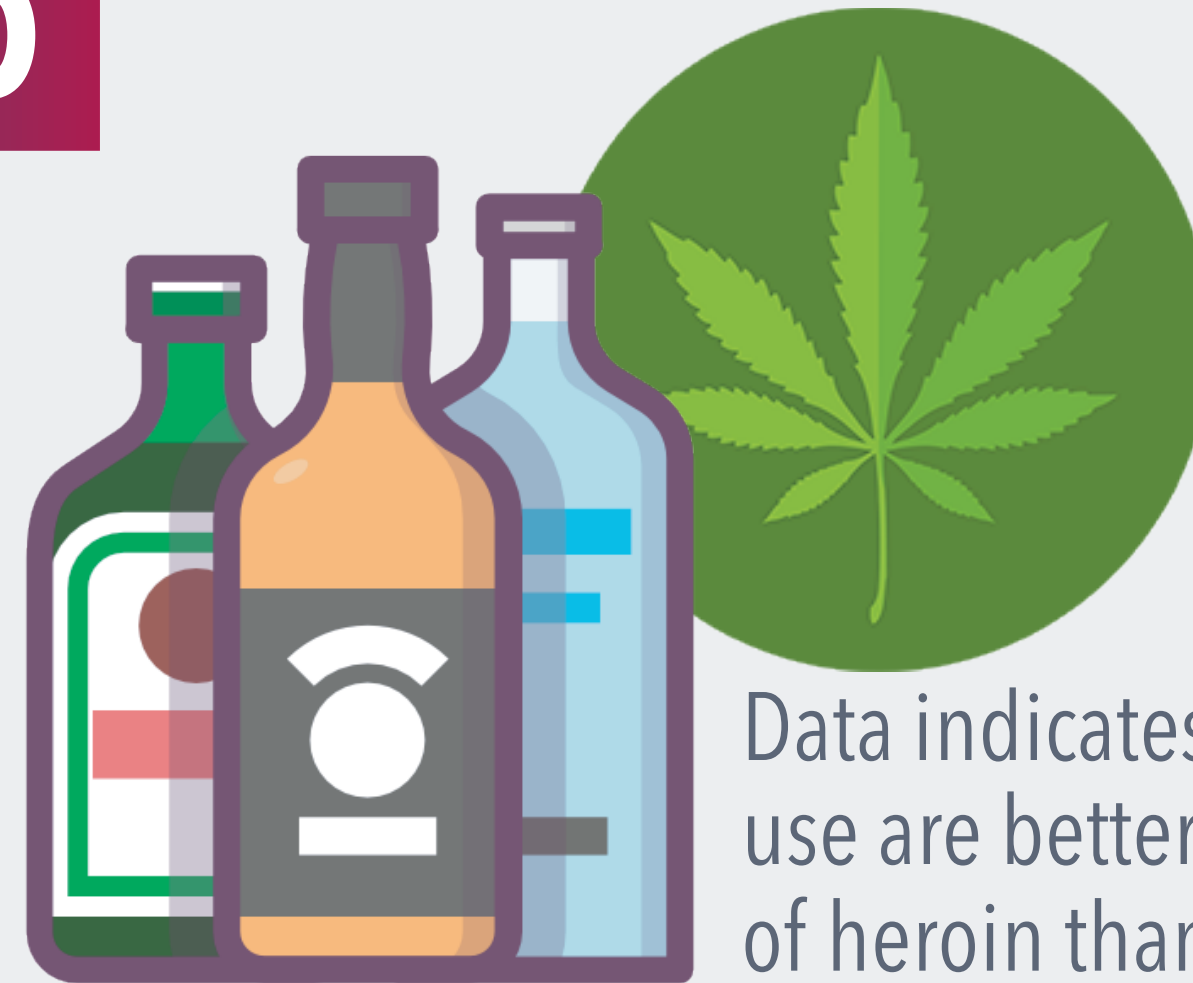


## 3 TYPES OF ACES

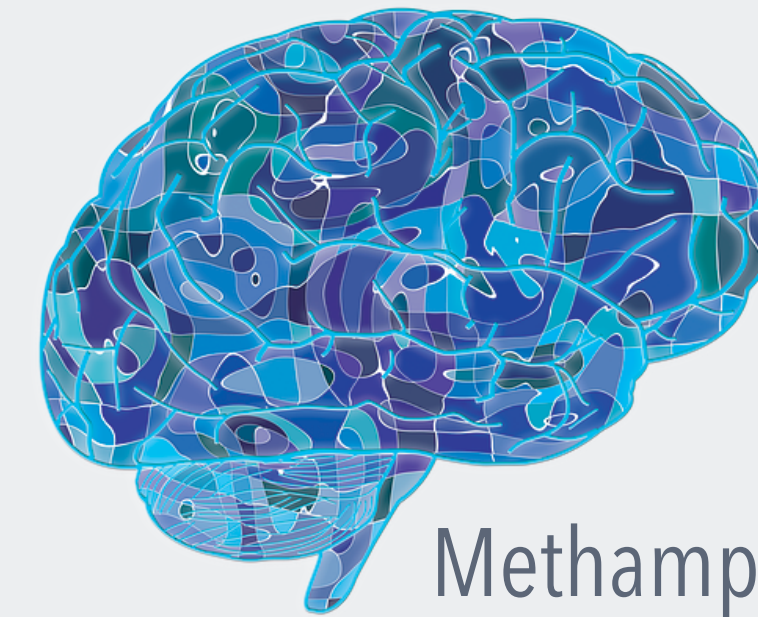




# HEROIN & NMUPO



Data indicates that alcohol or marijuana use are better indicators of subsequent use of heroin than use of prescription opioids.

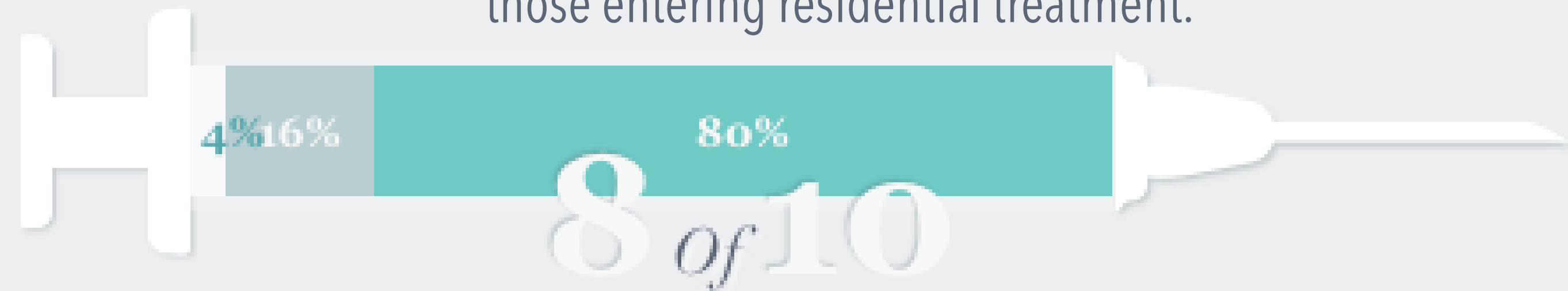


Methamphetamine use is seen more concurrently with heroin than other opioids.

For people who use drugs, prescription opioids were popular before 2006 with use waning over the last 5 years. As opioids dropped off, heroin use steadily rose.

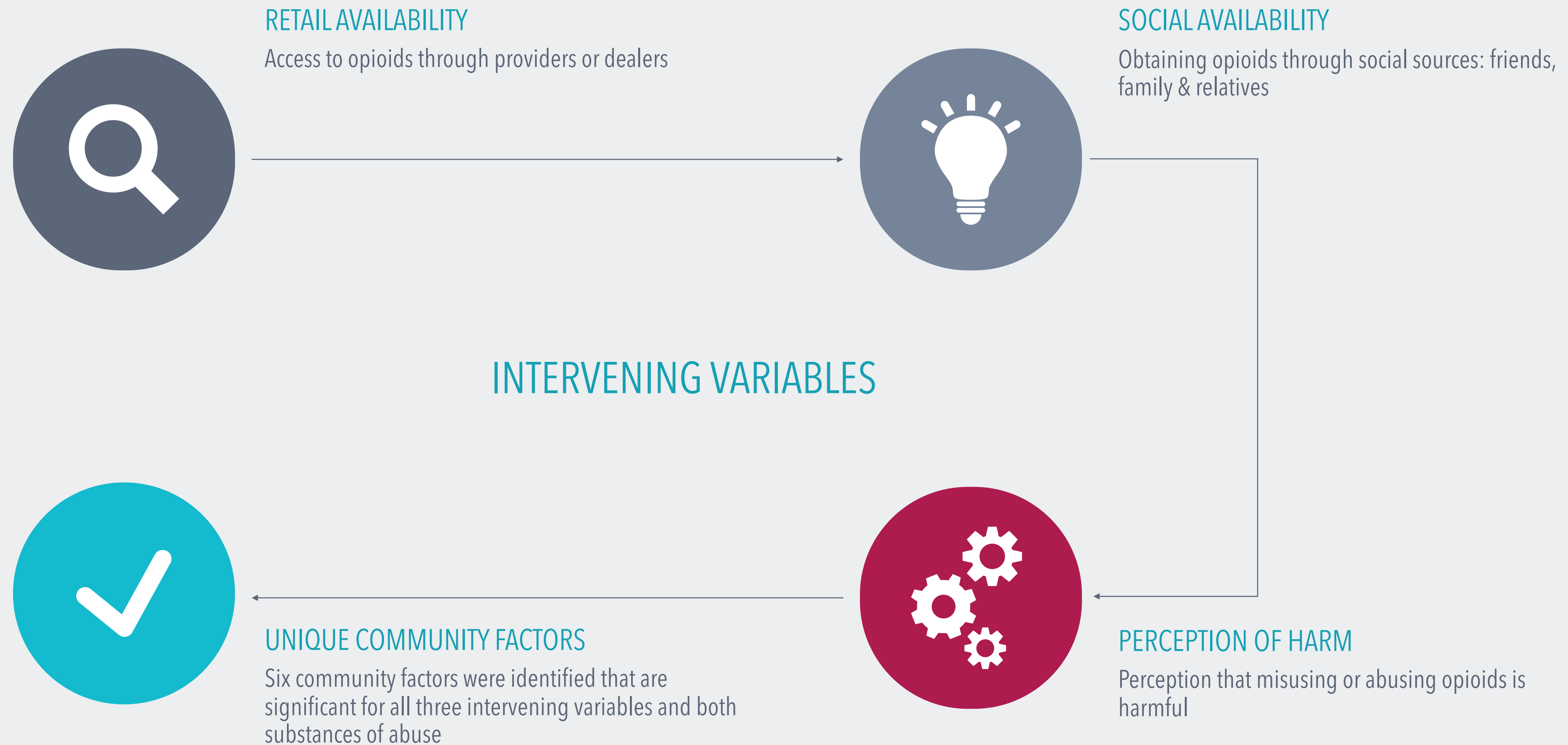
## HEROIN

is the most common drug of choice for those entering residential treatment.



### PATIENTS

Admitted to Serenity House Treatment Center in 2016 for Opioid Use used Heroin as their drug of choice. 4% used Oxycodone. 16% used Methadone/Suboxone



## UNIQUE COMMUNITY FACTORS

### Social Determinants of Health

- Economic stability
- Neighborhoods and built environments
- Health and healthcare
- Social and community context
- Education

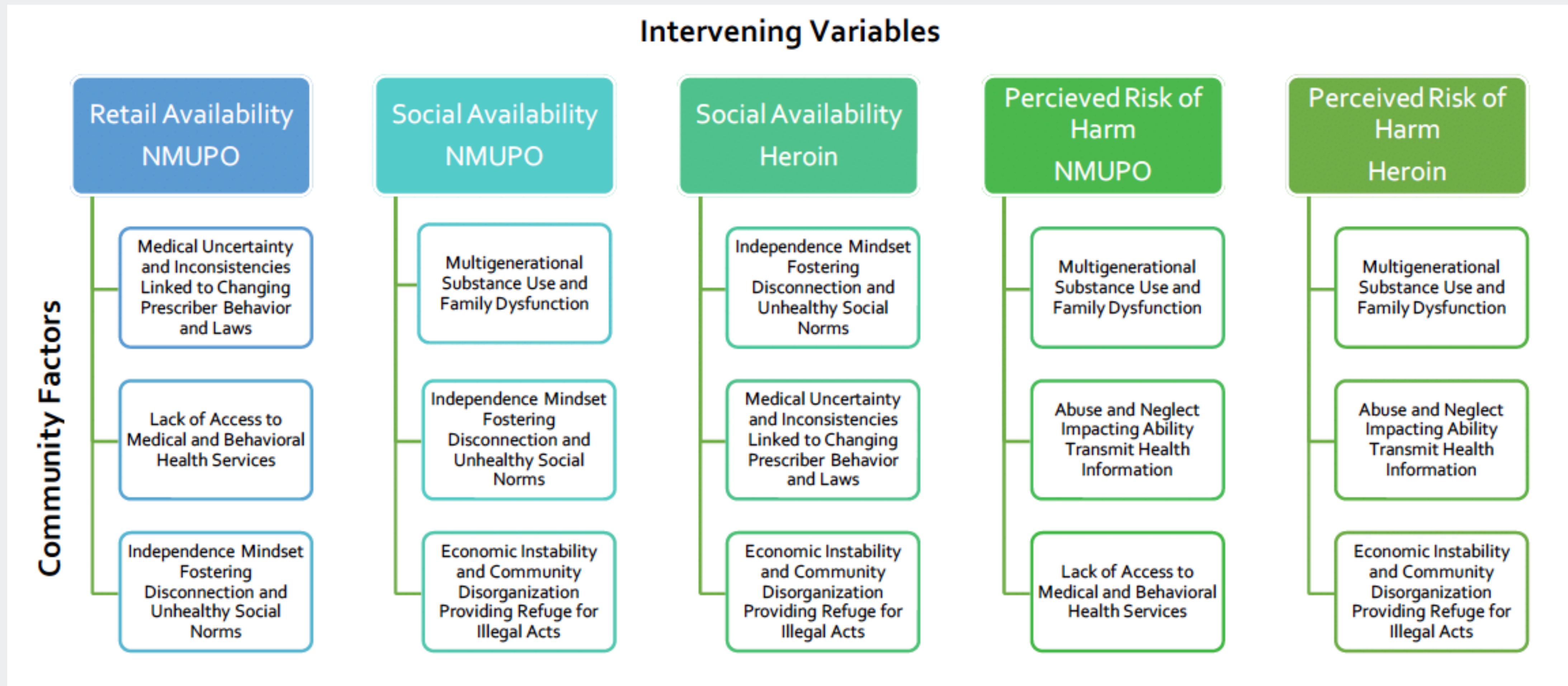
## COMMUNITY FACTORS

1. Economic Instability and community disorganization
2. Lack of access to medical & behavioral health services
3. Independence fostering disconnection and unhealthy social norms
4. Multigenerational substance use and family dysfunction
5. Abuse and neglect impacting ability to transmit health information
6. Medical uncertainty and inconsistencies linked to changing provider behavior and laws

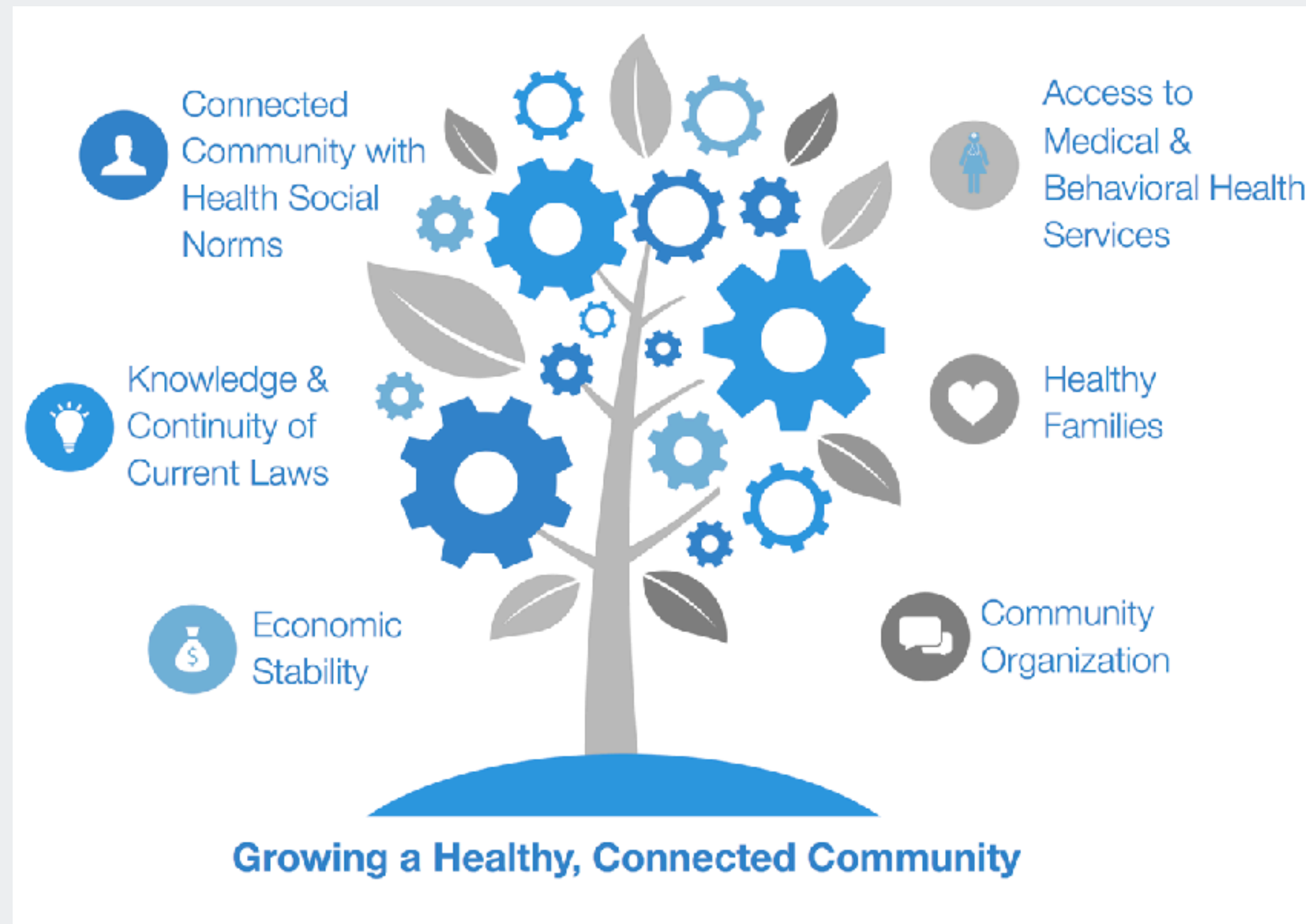




## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERVENING VARIABLES &amp; COMMUNITY FACTORS



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY



### WATCH

Media Campaign  
Information  
Special Events  
Prevention



### LEARN

Educational Activities  
ACEs  
Life Skills





### HANDS ON

Community Events  
Resource Development

**LEARN • ENGAGE • CONNECT**

 change4kenai

 [www.change4kenai.org](http://www.change4kenai.org)

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Change<sup>4</sup>theKenai  
Connect *community*.  
Save lives.



CONTACT INFO