



# AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE Opioid & Drug Overdose

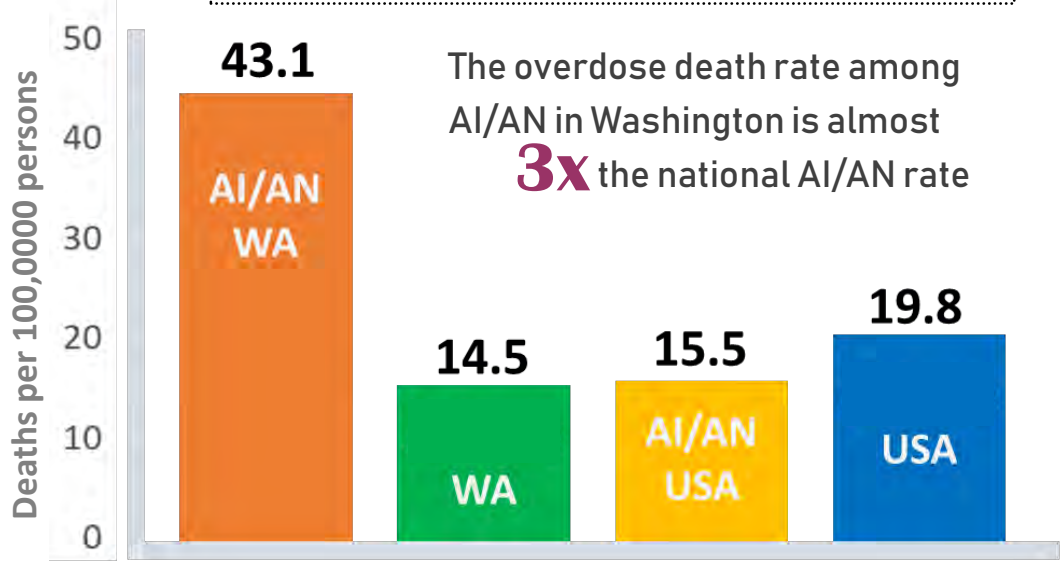
## DATA BRIEF



### 2016 Drug Overdose Death Rates

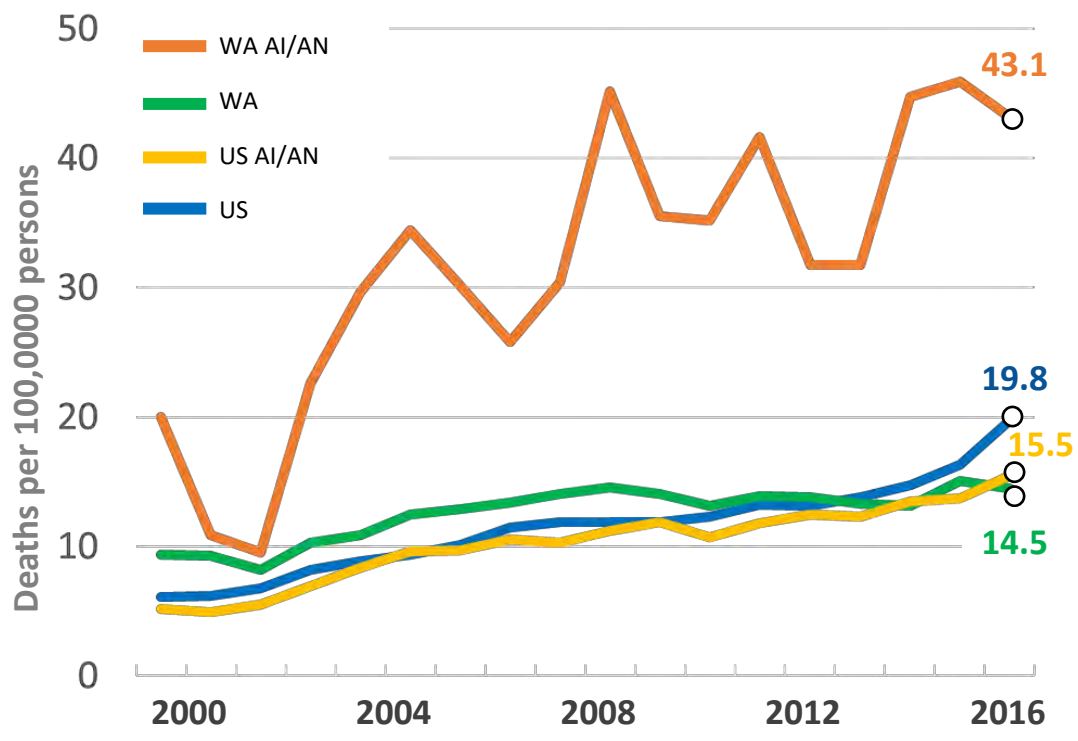
The death rate from drug overdose among American Indian & Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Washington State was **43.1 per 100,000** people in 2016.

This rate is almost **3 times** the national AI/AN rate and the Washington State average.



The overdose death rate among AI/AN in Washington is almost **3x** the national AI/AN rate

### Drug Overdose Deaths Over Time

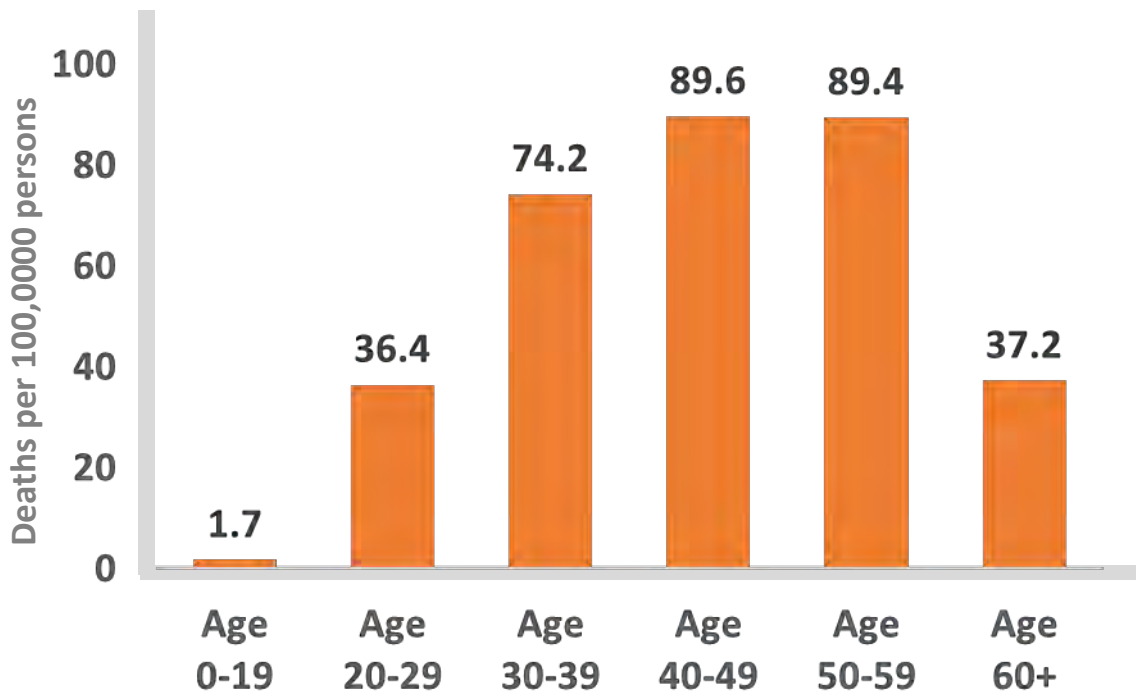


The overall drug overdose death rate in Washington has historically been higher than the national average, however the national rate surpassed Washington in 2013.

While the overall overdose death rate in Washington has remained relatively stable since 2007, the rates for AI/AN in Washington has increased 36% since 2012 and almost 300% since 2000.



### AI/AN Overdose Deaths by Age Washington State, 2014-2016



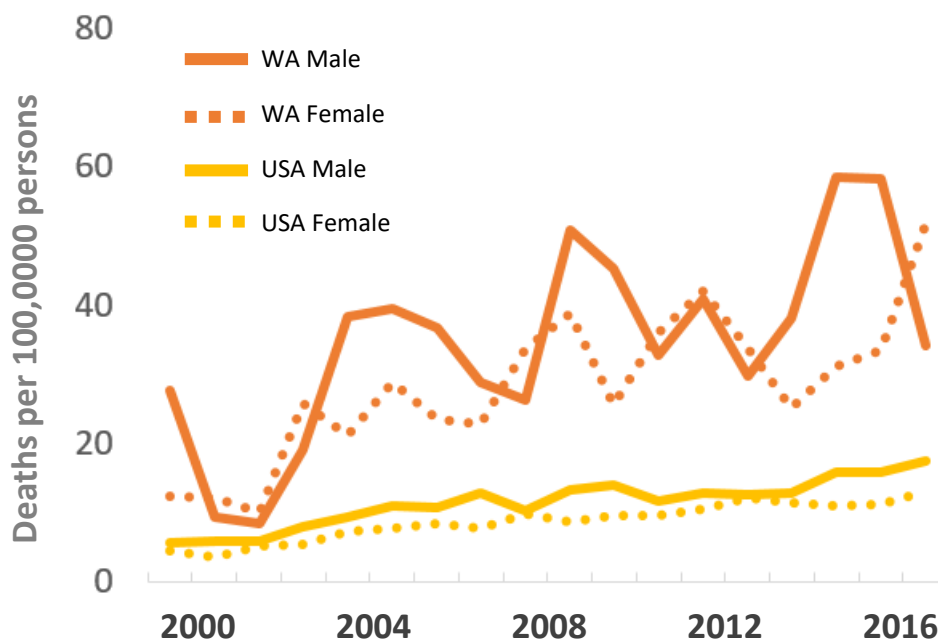
Overdose deaths are most common among Washington AI/AN **between the ages of 30 and 59.**

This age distribution is **similar to what is seen statewide and nationally.**

### AI/AN Overdose Deaths by Sex Over Time Washington State & USA

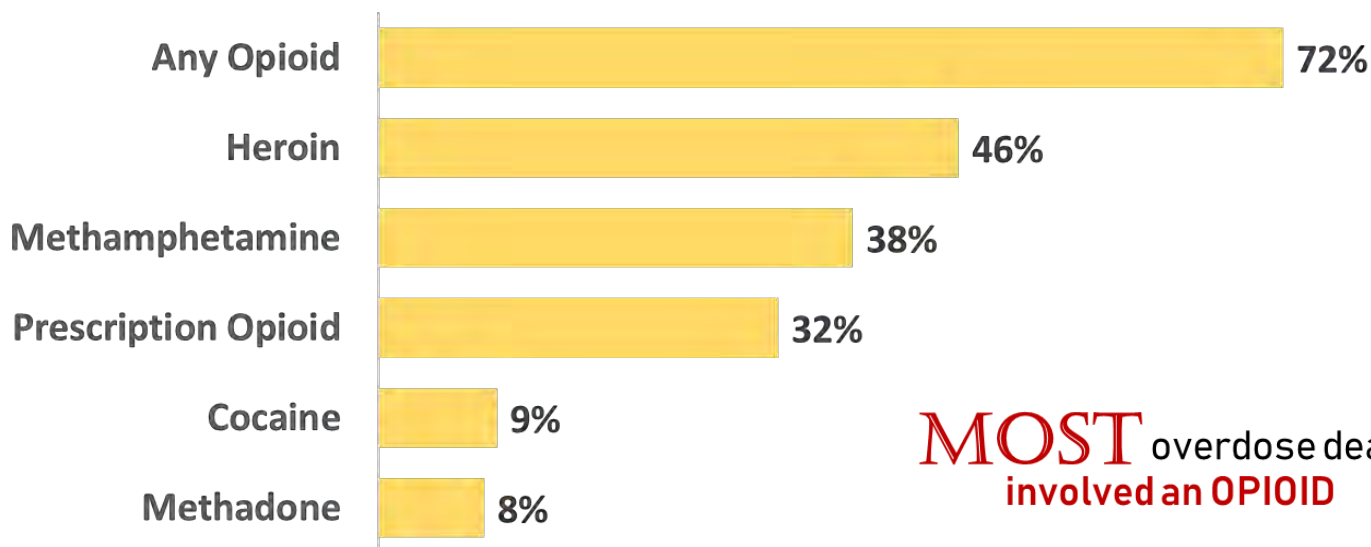
Nationally, the death rate among AI/AN men is consistently higher than the rate for women, however among Washington AI/AN, **the rates between men and women are more similar.**

Overdose death rates are on average **increasing for both sexes.**





Drugs Involved in AI/AN Overdose Deaths\*  
Washington State, 2014-2016



**MOST** overdose deaths involved an **OPIOID**

\*More than one drug may be involved in overdose; therefore categories do not equal 100%

Polysubstance Deaths  
AI/AN, Washington State, 2014-2016

almost **HALF** of drug overdose deaths involved more than one drug  
and a **THIRD** involved more than one **OPIOID**

**48%**  
of overdose deaths involved more than one **DRUG**

**33%**  
of overdose deaths involved more than one **OPIOID**

COMMON COMBOS

- 74%** of deaths involving **COCAINE** involved an **OPIOID**
- 59%** of deaths involving **METH** involved an **OPIOID**
- 17%** of deaths involving **HEROIN** involved a **PRESCRIPTION OPIOID**



### Northwest Tribal Opioid and Overdose Resources

#### INDIAN COUNTRY ECHO Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

This program educates providers on SUD best practices and evidence-based treatments, provides MAT Waiver certification, telehealth sessions, and more to increase access to treatment and recovery services for persons with SUD in tribal communities. Contact David Stephens at [dstephens@npaihb.org](mailto:dstephens@npaihb.org) or text SUD to 97779 for more information.

#### TRIBAL OPIOID RESPONSE Consortium (TOR)

This project assists NW Tribes in developing the capacity to implement a complex, comprehensive opioid response, including increasing awareness of and preventing SUD, as well as developing a Tribal Opioid Strategic Plan. Contact Colbie Caughlan at [ccaughlan@npaihb.org](mailto:ccaughlan@npaihb.org) or text OPIOID to 97779 for more information.

### About the Data



**AI/AN are often misclassified as another race in health data systems**, making it difficult to accurately measure health outcomes. The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board’s **IDEA-NW PROJECT** works to reduce AI/AN misclassification in data systems and provide accurate health data for Northwest Tribes.

The **project corrects inaccurate race data for AI/AN** through record linkages with health data systems. Without this correction, the data in this publication would have under-counted AI/AN overdoses by **93** deaths and underestimated the age-adjusted rate by up to **24%**.

- **Washington State Data Source:** Death certificates from the Washington State Center for Health Statistics, corrected for AI/AN misclassification
- **National Data Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2016 on CDC Wonder Online Database
- Overdose deaths include records with the following ICD-10 codes for underlying cause of death: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14
- The data presented may not be comparable to information published by state or federal agencies due to differences in racial classification

This publication was produced by The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board IDEA-NW project and was supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Cooperative Agreement Number NU58DP006385-01). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

