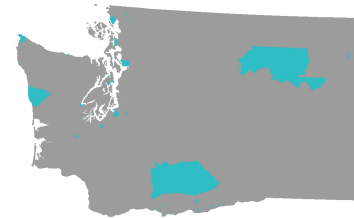


Suicide among American Indians & Alaska Natives in Washington

A review of death certificates from 2014-2016

Issued June 2019



Suicide is the **7th** leading cause of death for AI/ANs in Washington, and the **2nd** leading cause of death for AI/ANs ages 10-24.

123

There were **123** suicide deaths among AI/ANs in Washington during 2014-2016.



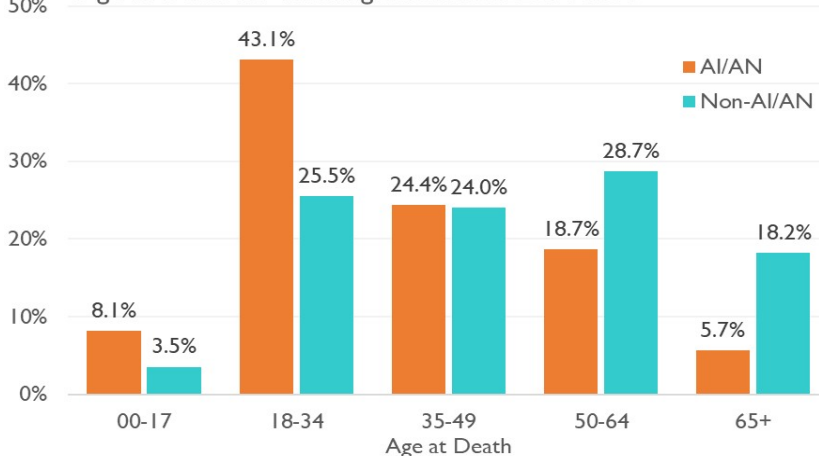
73% of AI/AN suicide deaths were male.



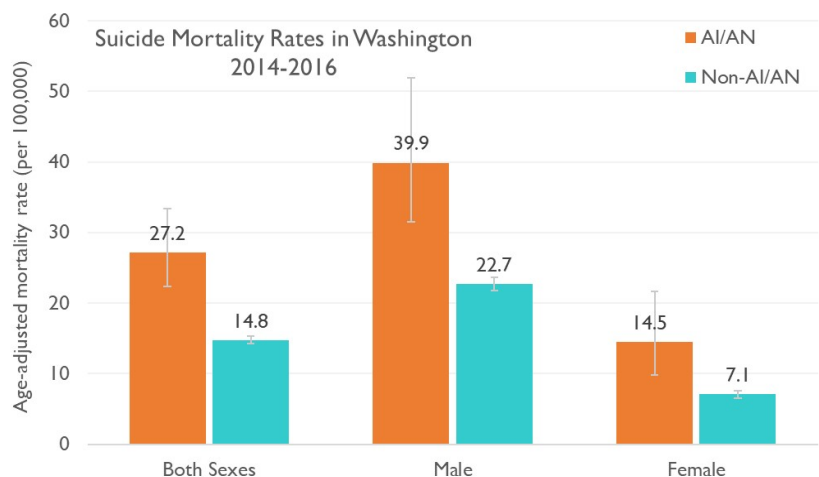
43% of AI/AN suicide deaths were by firearm, **34%** were by hanging/strangulation, and **10%** were from self-poisoning.

Over half (51.2%) of AI/AN deaths in Washington occurred among people younger than 35 years of age.

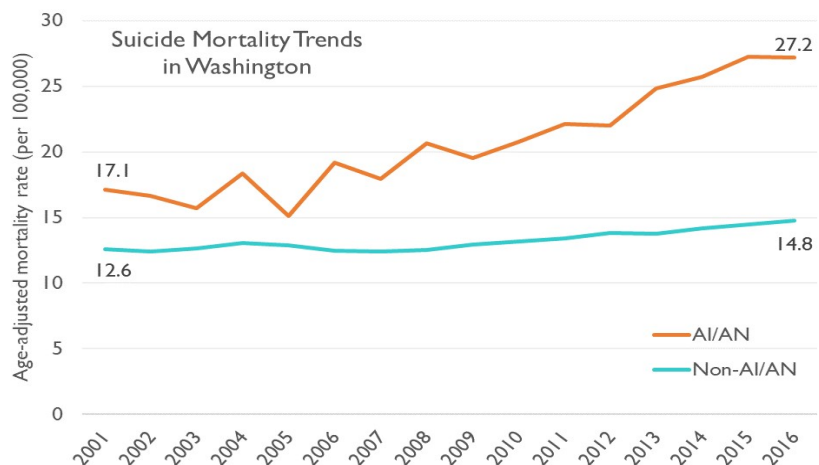
Age at Death for Washington Suicides 2014-2016



The suicide mortality rate for AI/ANs in Washington was **more than 1.8 times higher** than the rate for non-AI/ANs.



The suicide mortality rate for AI/ANs in Washington has **increased by 58%** since 2001.



WE ARE CONNECTED. we need you here.

American Indian and Alaska Native communities have always represented unity and resilience.

We must continue this tradition, and our connections can help our generations thrive.

Each one of us is a gift, and our stories are shared across generations.

Resources for Suicide Prevention



THRIVE (Tribal Health: Reaching out InVolves Everyone) is the suicide prevention project at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. THRIVE provides suicide prevention training, media material development, and technical assistance to Tribes in the Pacific Northwest in order to increase knowledge and awareness about suicide among Tribal community members, improve intertribal and interagency communication about suicide prevention and treatment, and encourage tribal health programs to track, prevent, and treat suicide.

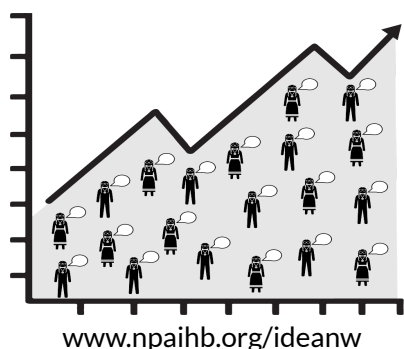
THRIVE provides ASIST and QPR trainings, and works to increase tribal capacity to prevent suicide using the *Zero Suicide Model*, the *Healing of the Canoe* curriculum, and other evidence-based interventions.

THRIVE has developed many social marketing and media products for tribal suicide prevention. These products can be found at <http://www.npaihb.org/social-marketing-campaigns>.

For more information about THRIVE, contact: Colbie Caughlan at ccaughlan@npaihb.org or 503-228-4185



About the Data



AI/ANs are often misclassified as another race in health data systems, and this makes it difficult to accurately measure and report on outcomes like suicide. NPAIHB's **IDEA-NW** project works to reduce AI/AN misclassification in public health data systems and provide Northwest Tribes with accurate health data.

The project corrects inaccurate race data for AI/ANs through record linkages with vital records and other data systems. Without this correction, the data used for the publication would have under-counted AI/AN suicides by **14** deaths and underestimated the age-adjusted rate by **12%**.

For more information about IDEA-NW, contact: ideanw@npaihb.org or 503-416-3261

- Data Source: Death certificates from the Washington Center for Health Statistics (2014-2016), corrected for AI/AN misclassification by the IDEA-NW Project
- Suicide deaths include records with the following ICD-10 codes for underlying cause of death: X60-X84, Y87.0
- The data presented may not be comparable to information published by state or federal agencies due to differences in how we identify AI/AN individuals.

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