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.

**2016 Drug Overdose Death Rates**

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.
**Opioid & Drug Overdose**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Opioid</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Opioid</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- a THIRD 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 Portland Area Indian Health Board

2121 SW Broadway, Suite 300 • Portland, OR 97201
503.228.4185 • www.npaihb.org/idea-nw • ideanw@npaihb.org
**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 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 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

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