

DATA ON POLICE VIOLENCE IN NORTHWEST NATIVE COMMUNITIES

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Background

- Police violence against communities of color has gained recognition as a matter of public health importance, and law enforcement policies and practices have been identified as a social determinant of health
- Despite the many limitations in available data, a small but growing number of published studies and media reports have documented large disparities in police violence experienced by Black and Indigenous communities
- As a follow up to NPAIHB's statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, we used existing data to examine disparities in police violence experienced by Northwest AI/AN communities

*“When it comes to reckoning the toll of racial inequality, accountability requires counting.”
(Krieger et al., 2015)*



Methods

Mortality Data

- Utilized national and state mortality data
 - State data are corrected for AI/AN misclassification by NPAIHB's IDEA-NW project
- Identified deaths due to “legal intervention” using ICD-10 codes
- Examined demographic characteristics for AI/AN deaths
- Compared AI/AN rates to the non-Hispanic White (White) population to understand disparities

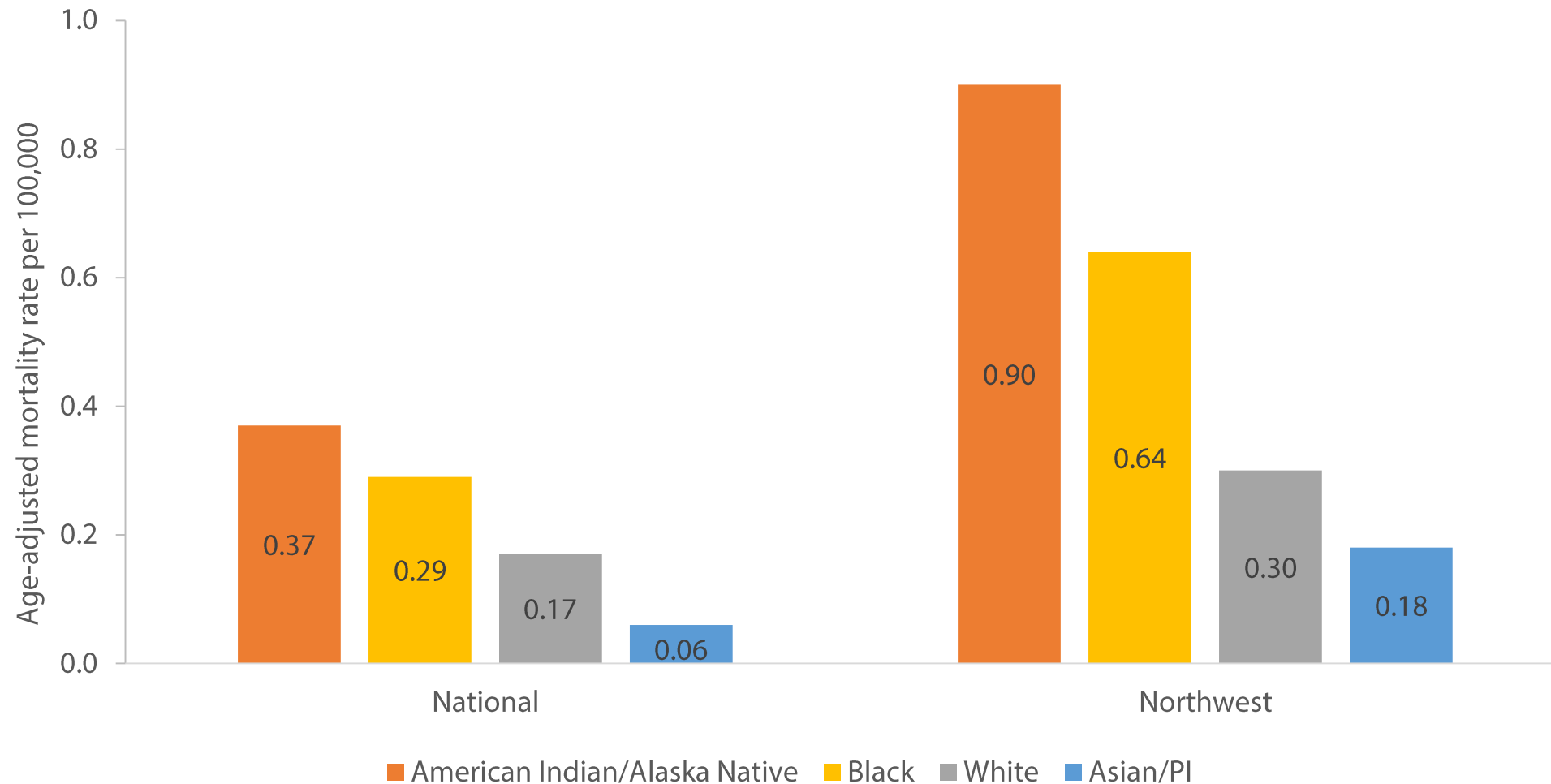
Police Use of Force Data

- Scanned publicly available Police Use of Force data in ID, OR, and WA
 - Police use of force includes using verbal, physical, chemical, impact, electronic, or firearm force to compel compliance or overcome resistance to an officer's command to protect life or property or to take a person into custody
- Identified two Northwest datasets with information available for AI/AN people – Portland and Seattle
- Analyzed police use of force incidents for AI/AN and White populations



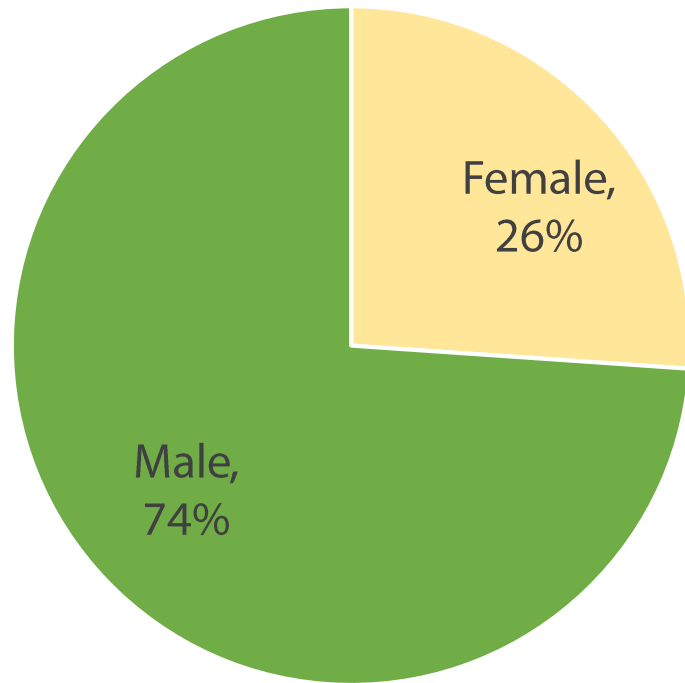
MORTALITY DATA

Nationally and in the Northwest, AI/AN people have the **highest death rates** from police violence compared to other race/ethnicity groups.

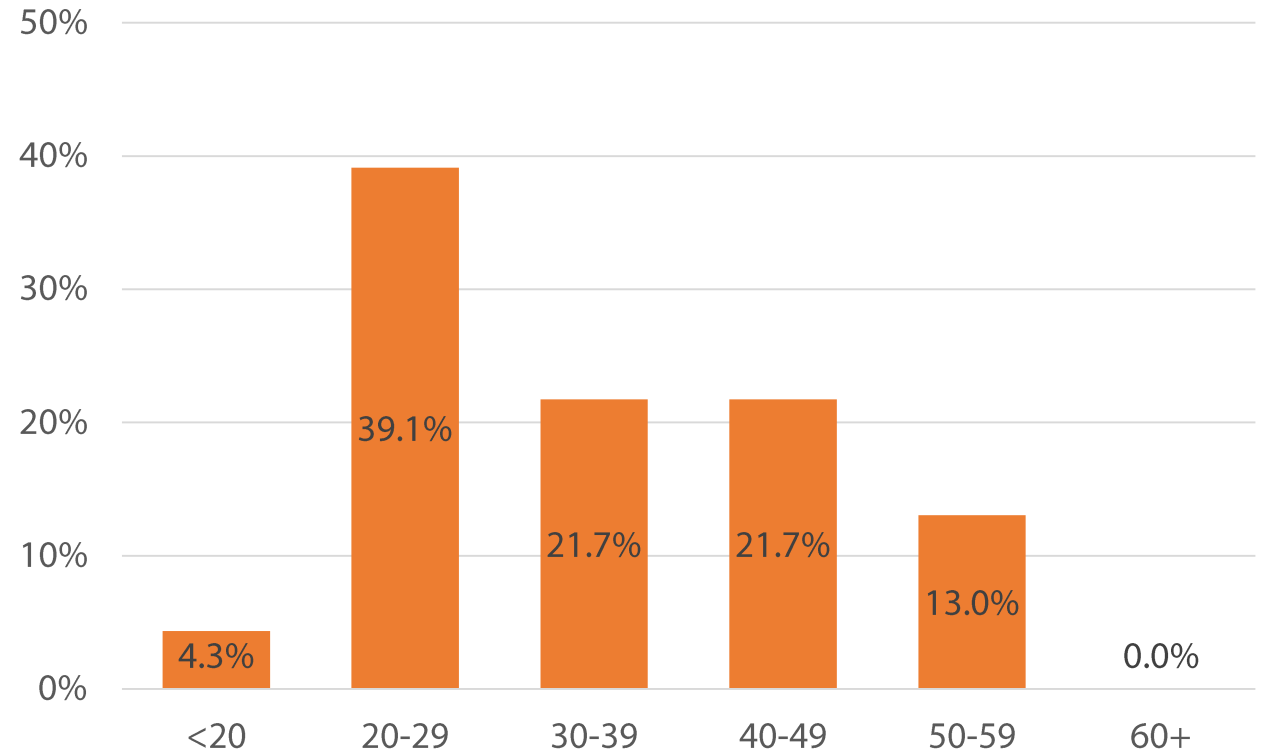


During 2006-2016, there were **23 deaths** from police violence among Northwest AI/AN people.

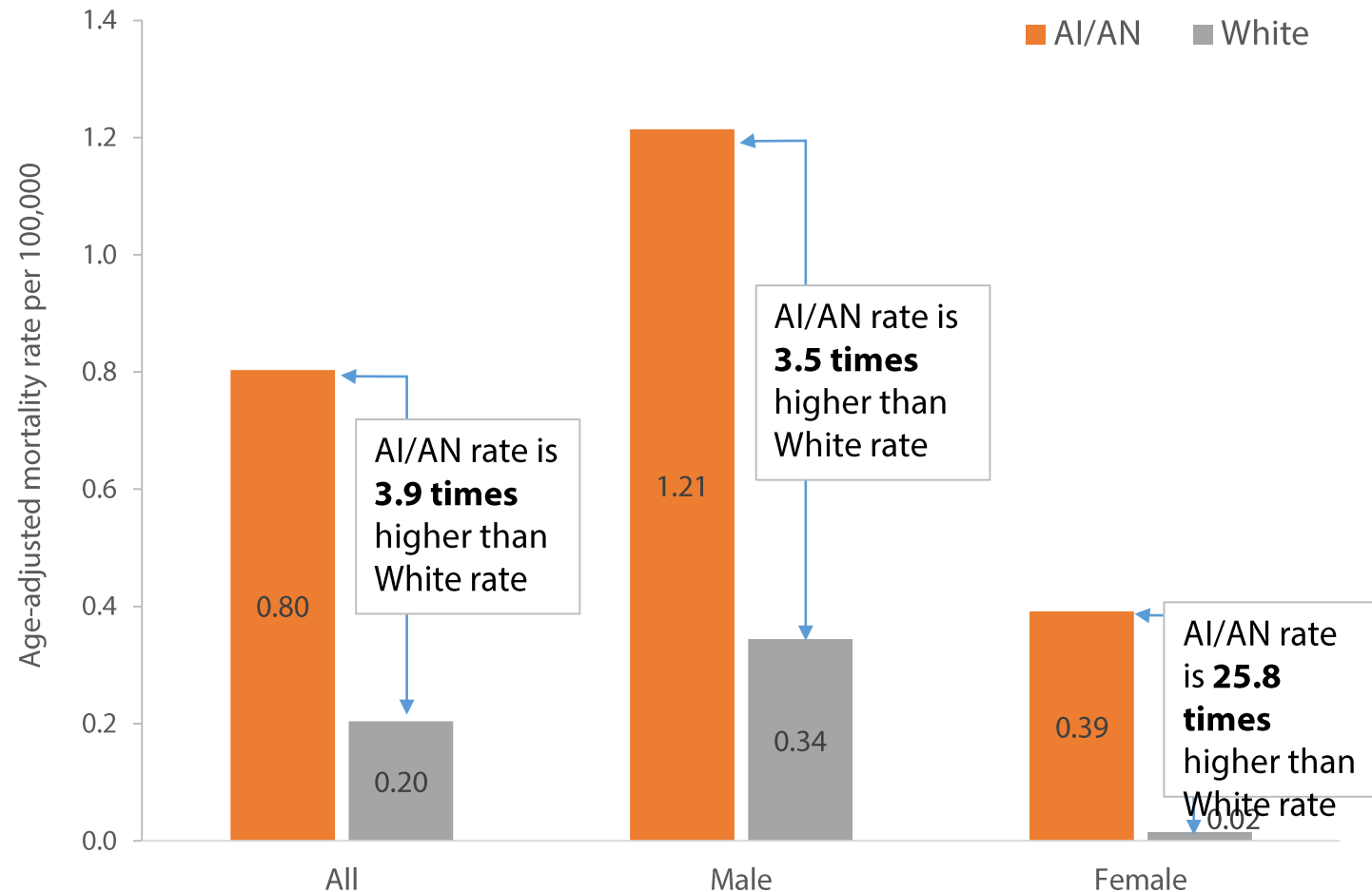
74% of AI/AN deaths from police violence occurred among **males**.



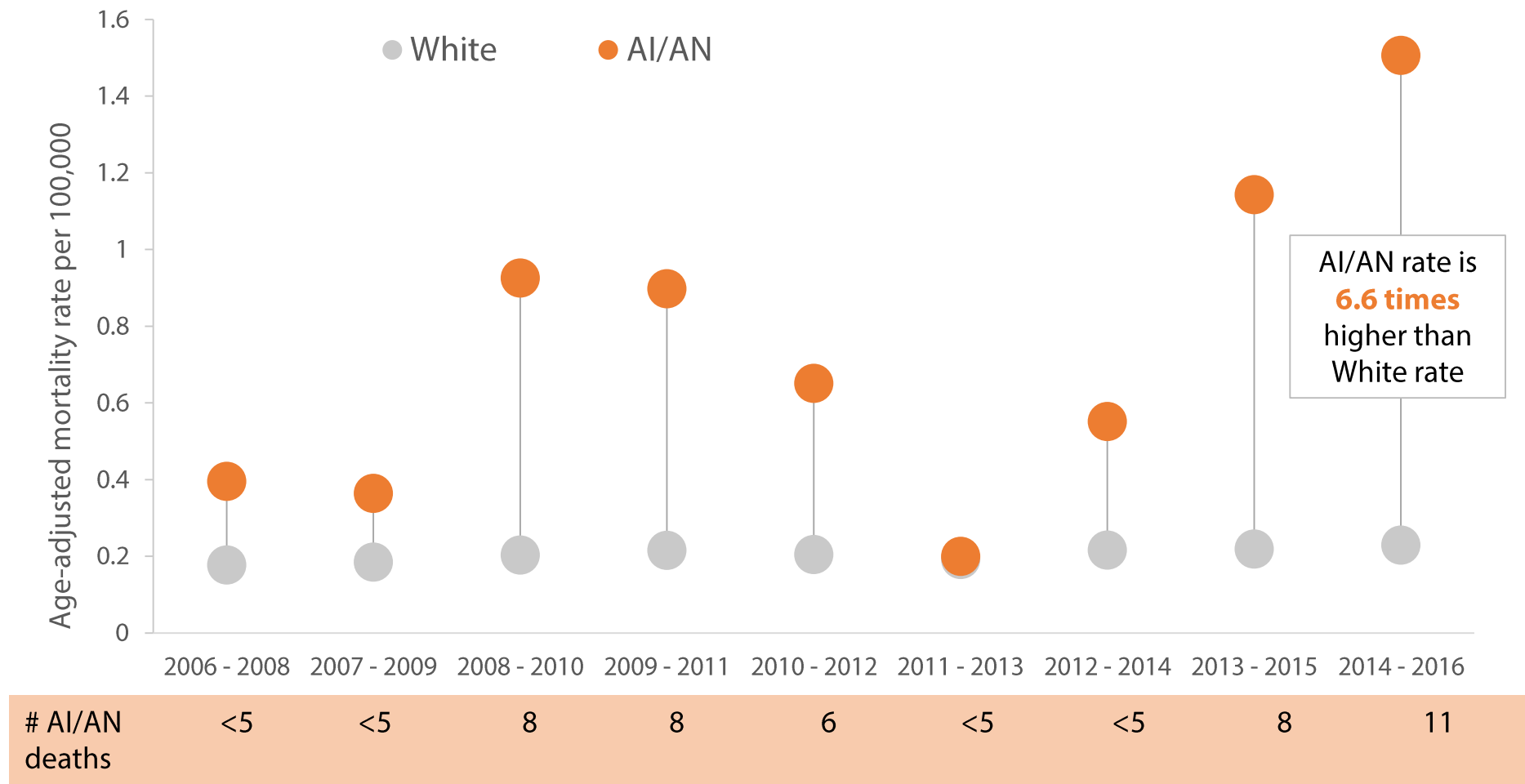
Almost **45%** of AI/AN deaths from police violence occurred among those less than 30 years of age.



During 2006-2016, Northwest AI/AN people died from police violence at **nearly 4 times** the rate of Whites.



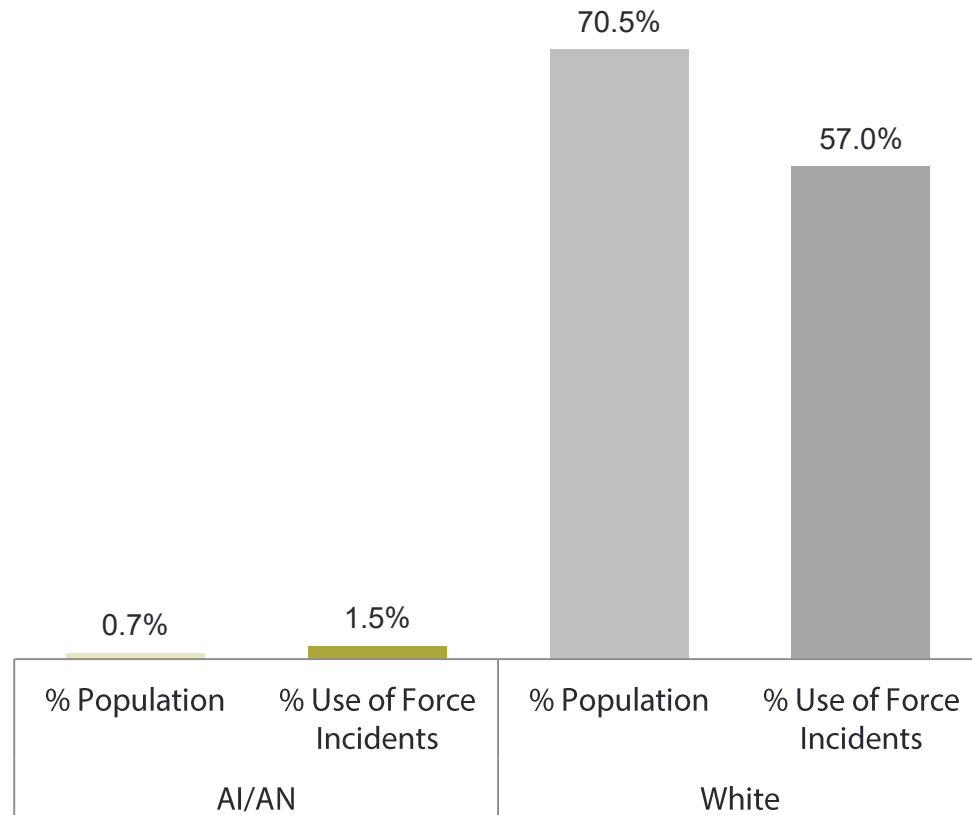
While trends for AI/AN people are unstable, the rate of police violence deaths appears to have **increased** in recent years.



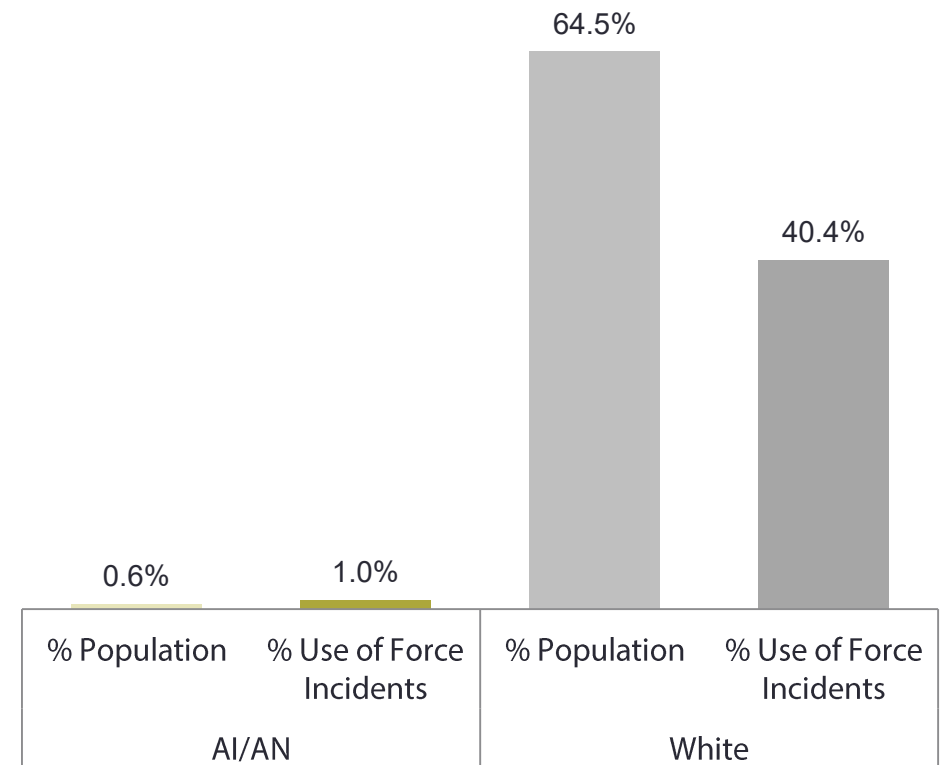
POLICE-REPORTED USE OF FORCE DATA FOR PORTLAND AND SEATTLE

Compared to their population size, AI/AN make up a **higher proportion** of use of force incidents than Whites.

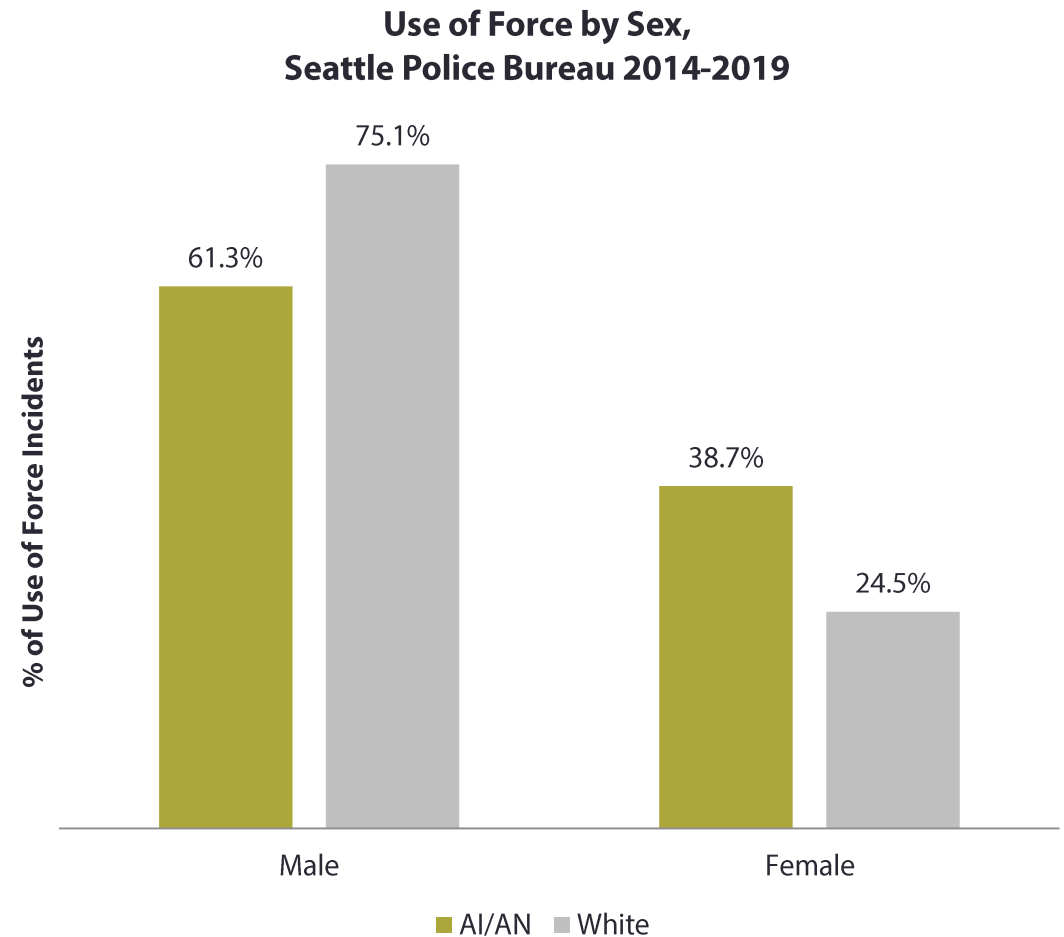
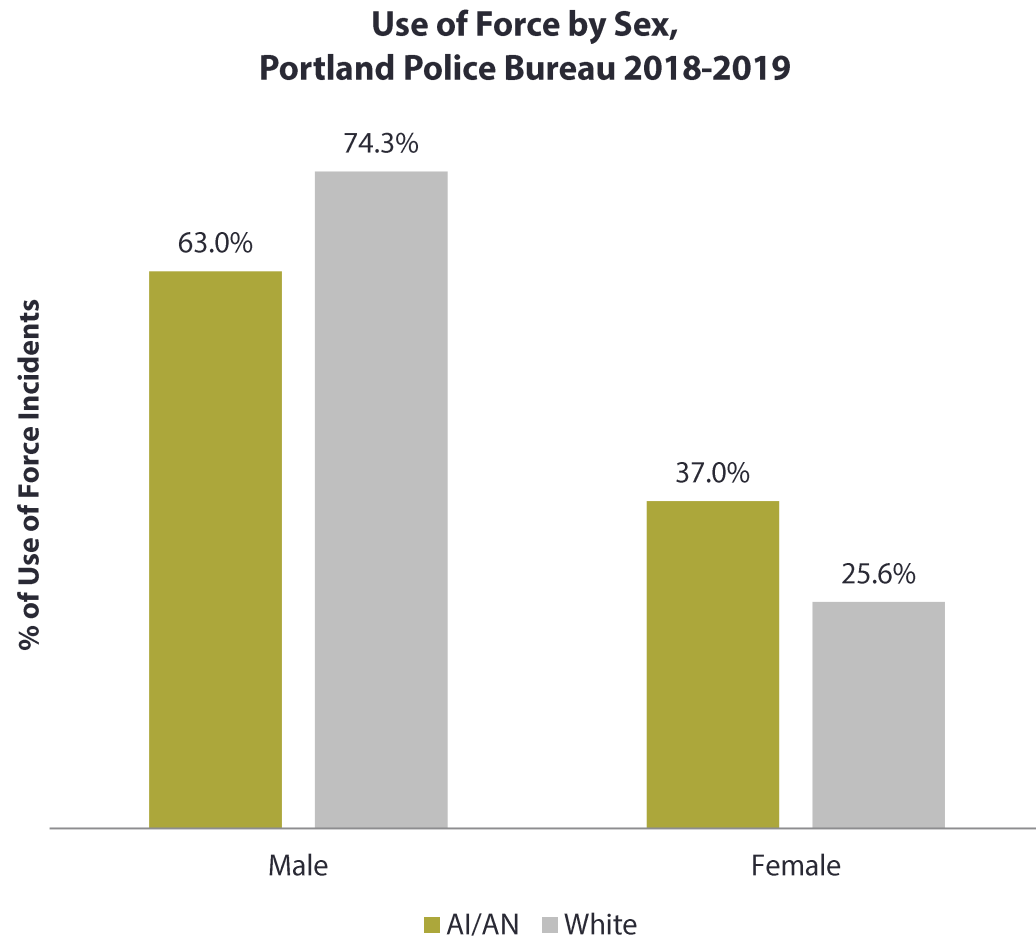
**Use of Force and City Demographics,
Portland Police Bureau Data 2018-2019**



**Use of Force and City Demographics,
Seattle Police Bureau Data 2014-2019**

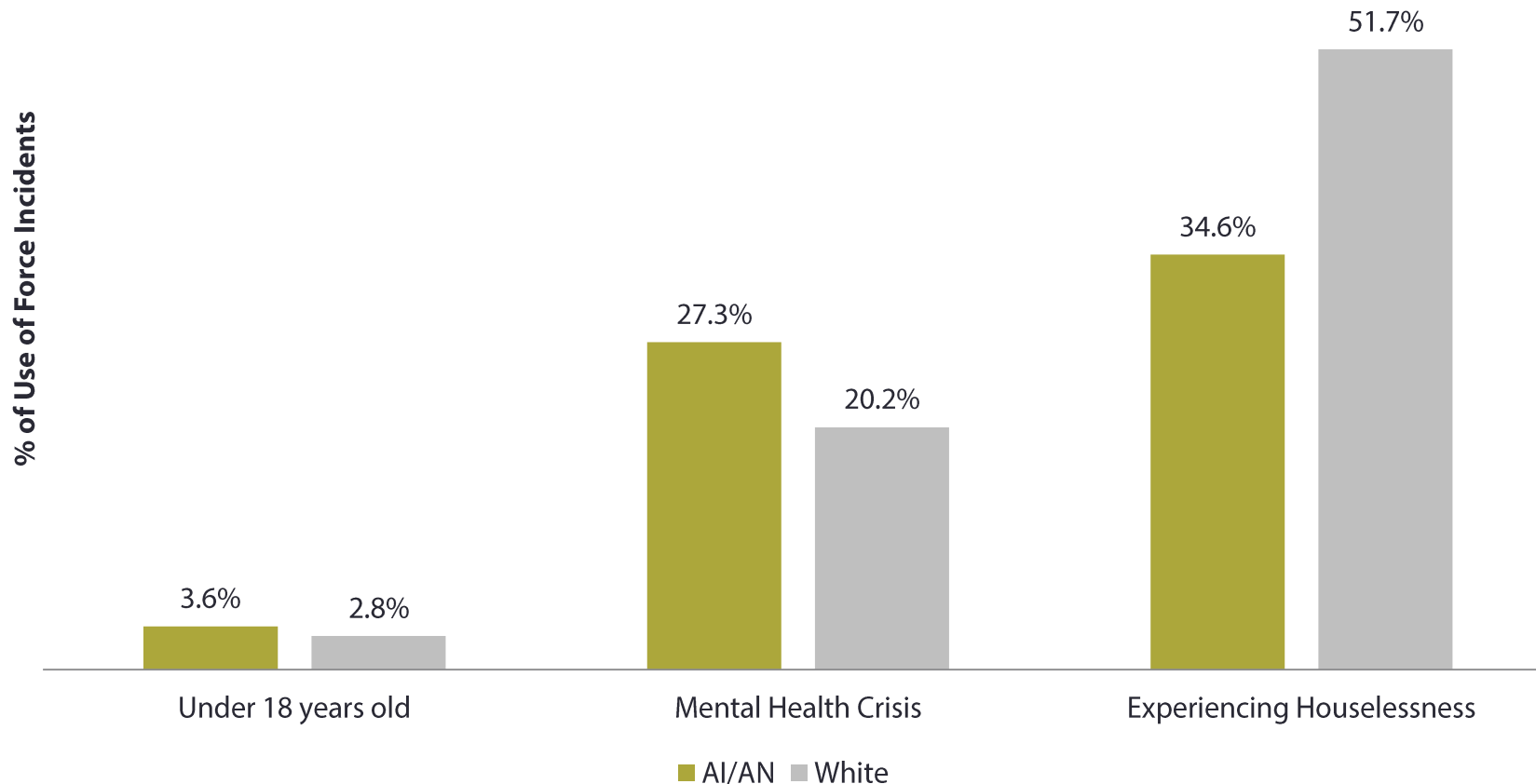


Women make up a **larger proportion** of use of force incidents among AI/AN than among Whites.



27% of AI/AN people involved with a use of force incident with Portland Police were perceived as experiencing a mental health crisis.

**Use of Force by Race Against Vulnerable Populations
Portland Police Bureau, 2018-2019**



Data Limitations

- Mortality data
 - Misclassification of race and outcomes
 - Changes in willingness to report “legal intervention” deaths over time
- Police Use of Force Data
 - Possible under-reporting of use of force by police
 - Misclassification/missing information on AI/AN status based on race/ethnicity



“There is a shared history and lived experience of trauma between Black and Indigenous communities, and solidarity is essential in the fight for a more just and peaceful world... This shared collective trauma creates fertile ground for strong alliance building to transform policing in the United States and practice anti-racism.” (Sonja Eiseman, Lakota People’s Law Project, 2020)



THANK YOU

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Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board