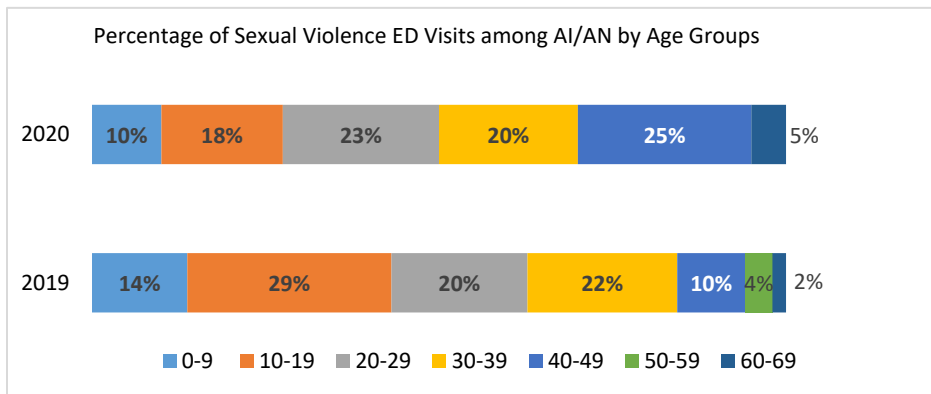


Sexual Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Natives in Oregon During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is having both short-term and far-reaching implications, as reports started to show an alarming trend of increasing violence. Yet, there is paucity of data measuring the impact of COVID-19 on the prevalence and reporting of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. Data on emergency department (ED) visits for sexual violence can provide some information on trends in sexual violence faced by AI/AN people during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is important to know that many cases of sexual violence experienced by individuals may not be represented in these data.

In Oregon, AI/AN were **1.5 times** more likely to have a sexual violence related emergency department visit than Whites.

In Oregon, AI/AN adolescents between 10 and 19 years of age had the highest rate of sexual violence ED visits of all races across age groups in 2019. AI/AN adolescents account for 25% of all sexual violence ED visits reported by AI/AN in Oregon from 2019 to 2020. However, the rate of sexual violence ED visits among AI/AN ages 40 to 49 doubled from 2019 to 2020. This age group accounted for 25% of all sexual violence ED visits reported by AI/AN in Oregon in 2020.



In 2020, AI/AN ages 10 to 29 account for **41%** of all sexual violence emergency department visits among AI/AN in Oregon

The rate of sexual violence ED visits among AI/AN ages 40 to 49 doubled from 2019 to 2020

Key Considerations. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual violence cannot be ignored. The findings suggest an increase in violence against AI/AN age 40 to 49 in Oregon. There is a strong need to take active measures towards addressing sexual violence against AI/AN in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The social and economic shifts from the pandemic may disproportionately impact access to support services and resources for individuals facing violence.

Data Source: Data from Oregon’s syndromic surveillance system. Patients who had an emergency department (ED) visit were included. Chief complaint and discharge diagnosis (CC and DD) codes were used to identify sexual violence ED visits following CDC definitions. Yearly data from 2020 (COVID-19 period) were compared to that of 2019 (pre-COVID-19 period). These data may undercount sexual violence related ED visits due to the misclassification of AI/AN people in emergency department data.

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