

AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE Opioid & Drug Overdose DATA BRIEF – 2020

OREGON

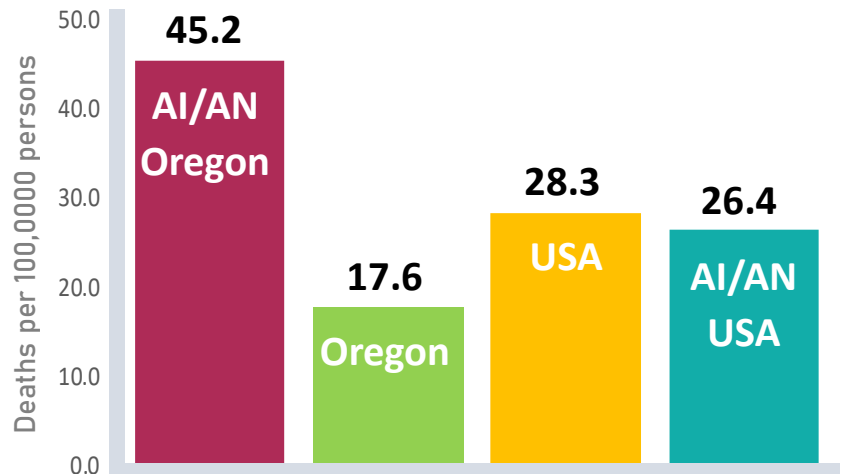
This report summarizes drug overdose mortality data for American Indian & Alaska Native (AI/AN) people residing in the state of Oregon. Comparisons are made to the Oregon State average, the USA average, and the AI/AN average in the USA.

2020 Drug Overdose Death Rates

In 2020, 41 AI/AN people died of a drug overdose in the state of Oregon. This represents a mortality rate of **45.2 per 100,000** people.

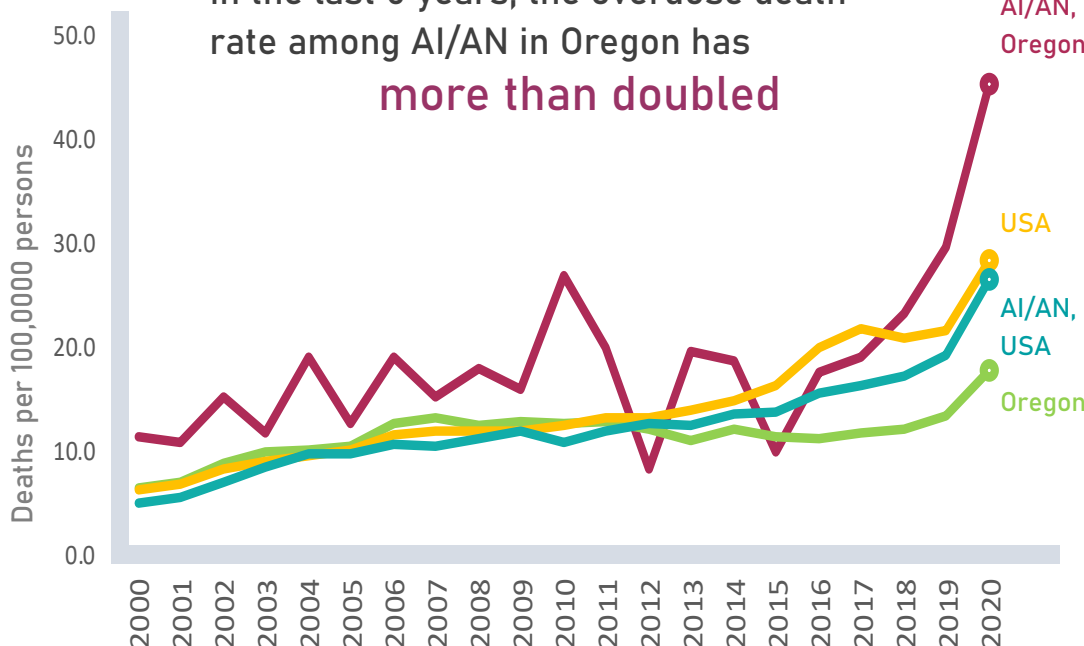
This drug overdose mortality rate among AI/AN in Oregon was:

- **2.6 times higher** than the Oregon state average
- **1.6 times higher** than the USA average
- **1.7 times higher** than the USA AI/AN average



Drug Overdose Deaths Over Time

In the last 5 years, the overdose death rate among AI/AN in Oregon has **more than doubled**



The mortality rate from drug overdose among AI/AN in Oregon has **sharply increased over the past 5 years**.

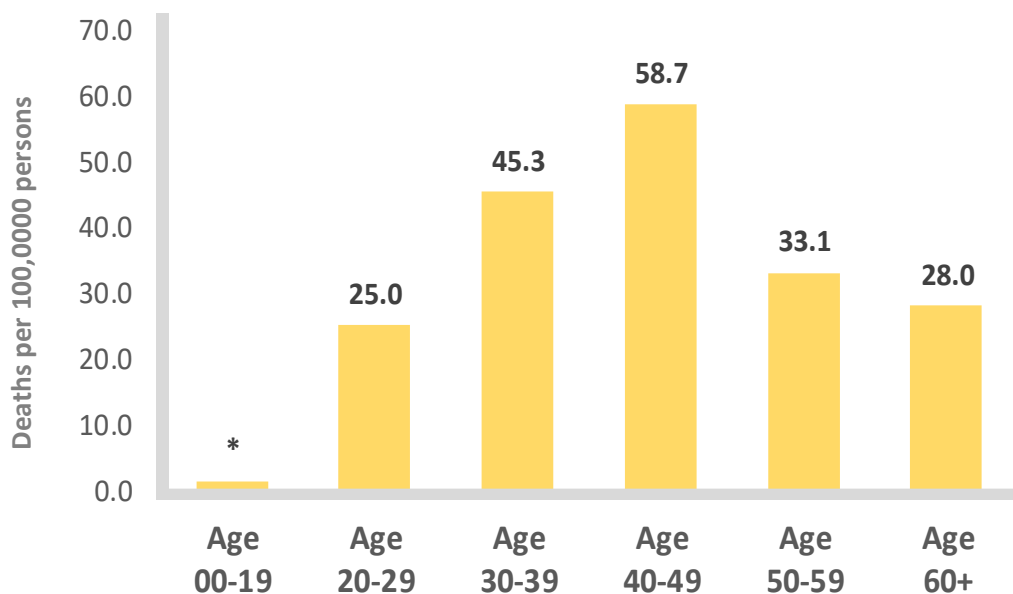
While national and state averages have also increased in the past 5 years, **the rate among AI/AN in Oregon has increased more - a 158.5% increase** compared to an increase of 59.1% in Oregon, 42.9% nationally, and 70.3% among AI/AN nationally.

Among AI/AN in Oregon, the **largest annual increase was from 2019 to 2020**, with a 52.9% increase.





AI/AN Overdose Deaths by Age Oregon State, 2016-2020



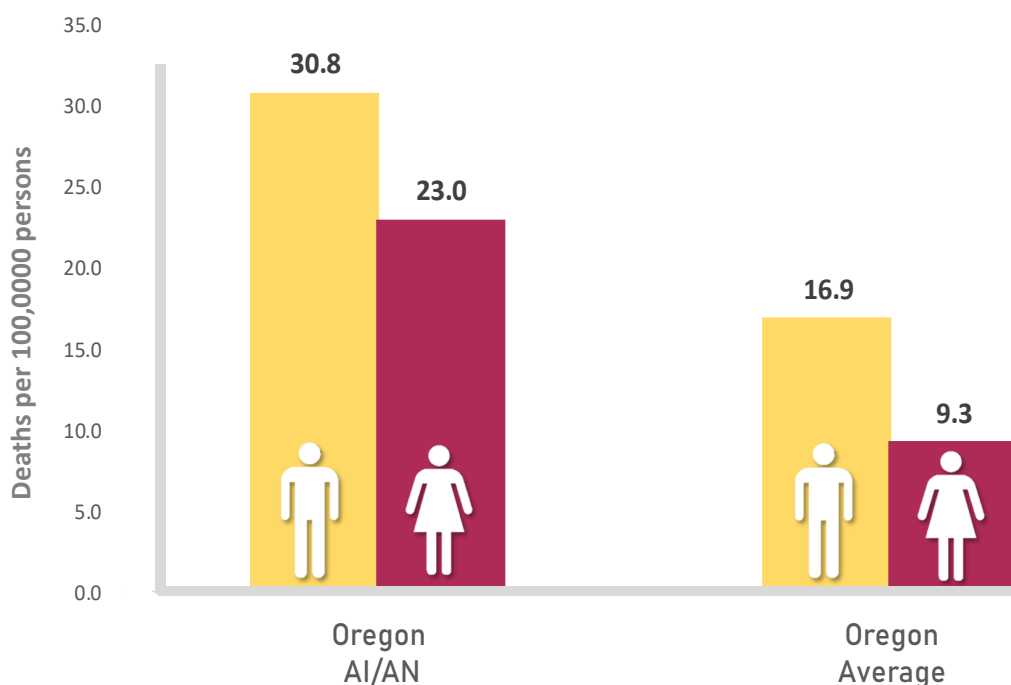
* Too few deaths to calculate a stable rate

Overdose deaths are most common among Oregon AI/AN **between the ages of 30 and 49.**

In Oregon overall, ages 50 to 59 have the highest rate of overdose, but the age distribution for the state is otherwise similar to what is seen among AI/AN in Oregon.

Most deaths in the 20 to 29 age range among AI/AN are males.

AI/AN Overdose Deaths by Sex Oregon State, 2016-2020



In Oregon, **AI/AN males have higher rates** of fatal drug overdose than females.

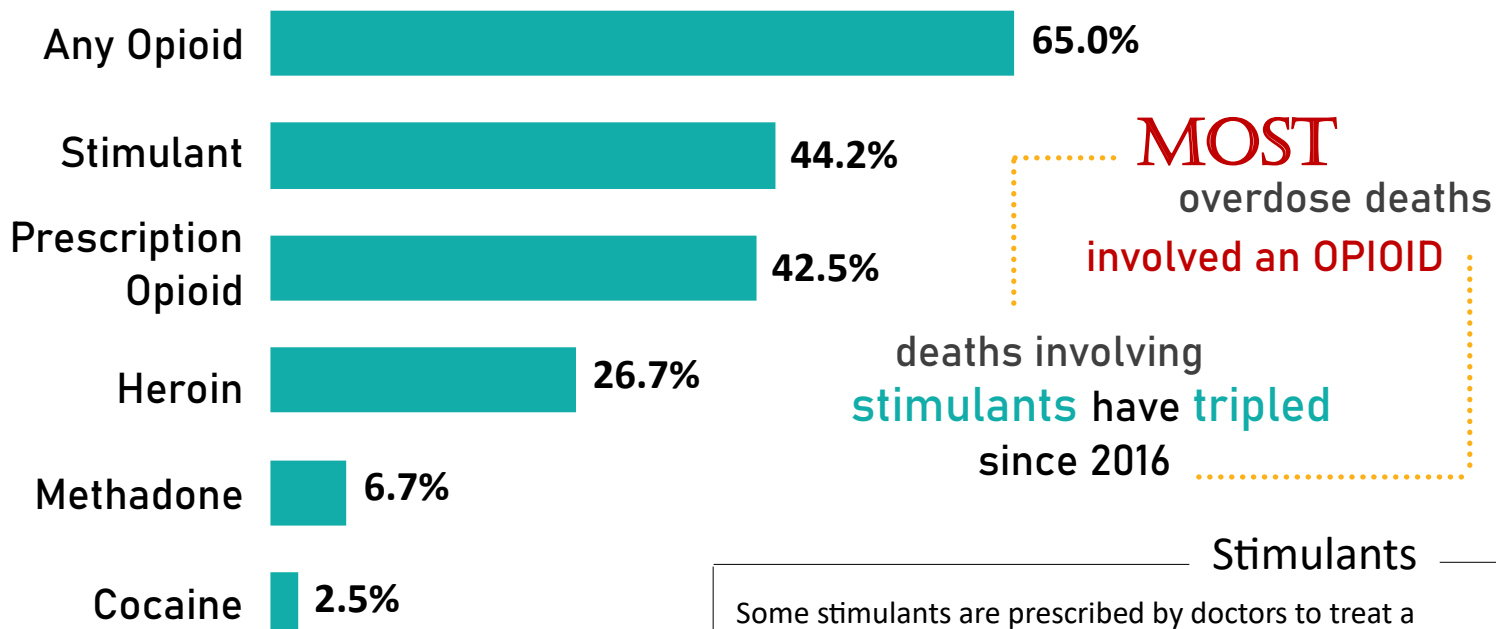
This is **similar to what is seen statewide and nationally.**

The overdose rates among male and female AI/AN in Oregon historically have been more similar. The **rate among AI/AN males has doubled** since the prior 5-year period (2013-2017) while the rate among females increased by less, 1.2 times.





Drugs Involved in AI/AN Overdose Deaths* Oregon State, 2016-2020



MOST
overdose deaths
involved an **OPIOID**

deaths involving
stimulants have **tripled**
since 2016

29.2%
of drug overdose deaths
involved more than one drug

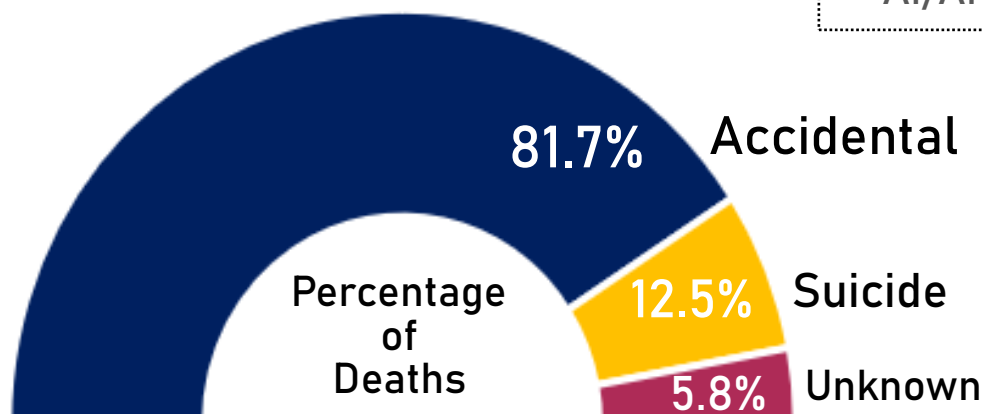
*More than one drug may be involved in an overdose;
therefore categories do not equal 100%

Stimulants

Some stimulants are prescribed by doctors to treat a variety of health conditions. Other stimulants are manufactured and consumed illegally. Examples include:

- ◇ Methamphetamine ("Meth")
- ◇ MDMA ("Ecstasy," "Molly")
- ◇ Amphetamines (Adderall, Dexidrine)
- ◇ Methylphenidates (Ritalin, Concerta)
- ◇ Ephedrine (Found in some cold medicines)

Overdose Death Intent AI/AN, Oregon State, 2016-2020



Most fatal overdoses among AI/AN in Oregon were accidental. 12.5% of overdose deaths were intentional suicide. In a few cases, the intent could not be determined (unknown).



Northwest Tribal Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Resources

INDIAN COUNTRY ECHO Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

This program increases access to treatment and recovery services for persons with SUD in tribal communities by training providers and clinicians on best practices and evidence-based treatments, telehealth sessions, and more.

Contact Indian Country ECHO at echo@npaihb.org 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, and increasing access to treatment & recovery for SUD. Contact Colbie Caughlan at ccaughlan@npaihb.org for more information.

About the Data

AI/AN are often misclassified as another race in health data.

For example, an AI/AN person might be listed as “White” in their hospital or doctor’s office records, or on their death certificate. This causes an under-counting of AI/AN people and makes it difficult to accurately measure health outcomes.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board’s **IDEA-NW Project corrects inaccurate race data for AI/AN** in health data systems. Without this correction, the data in this publication would have under-counted AI/AN overdoses by **45** deaths and underestimated the drug overdose mortality rate by up to **46%**.



- **Oregon State Data Source:** Death certificates from the Oregon 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 1999-2020 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

