



Opioid & Drug Overdose among American Indian & Alaska Natives in Washington

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Substance Use Epidemiologist

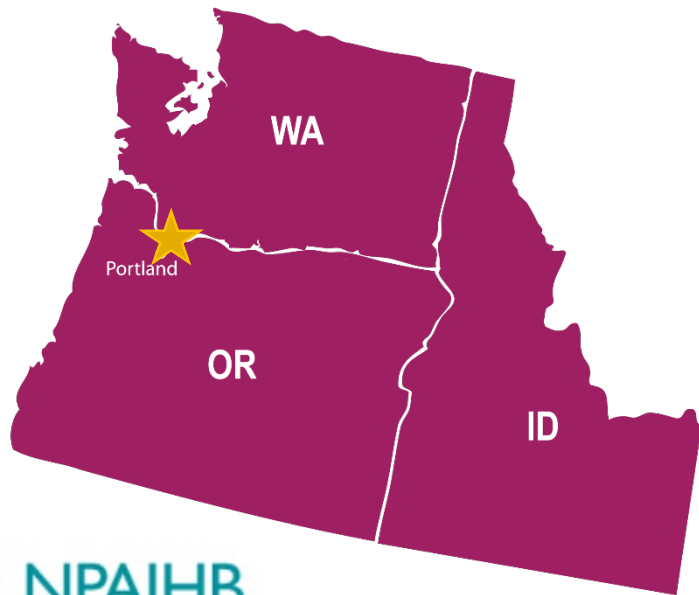
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health
Board (NPAIHB)

Washington SPE Consortium 1/10/2022



Where do I work?

- **Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC)**
Housed within the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) in Portland, Oregon
- Our organization provides epidemiological and public health support for **the 43 federally recognized tribes** in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (~300,000 AI/AN)

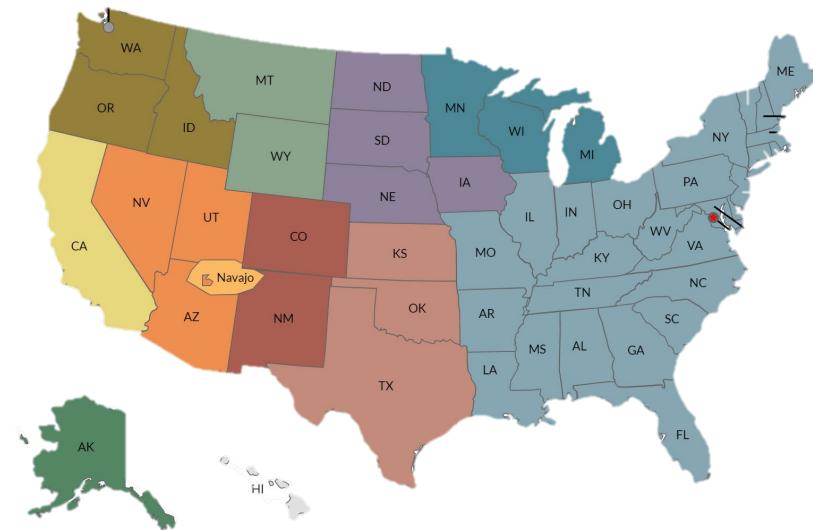


NPAIHB

Indian Leadership for Indian Health

There are 12 regional Tribal Epicenters in the USA

<https://tribalepicenters.org/>



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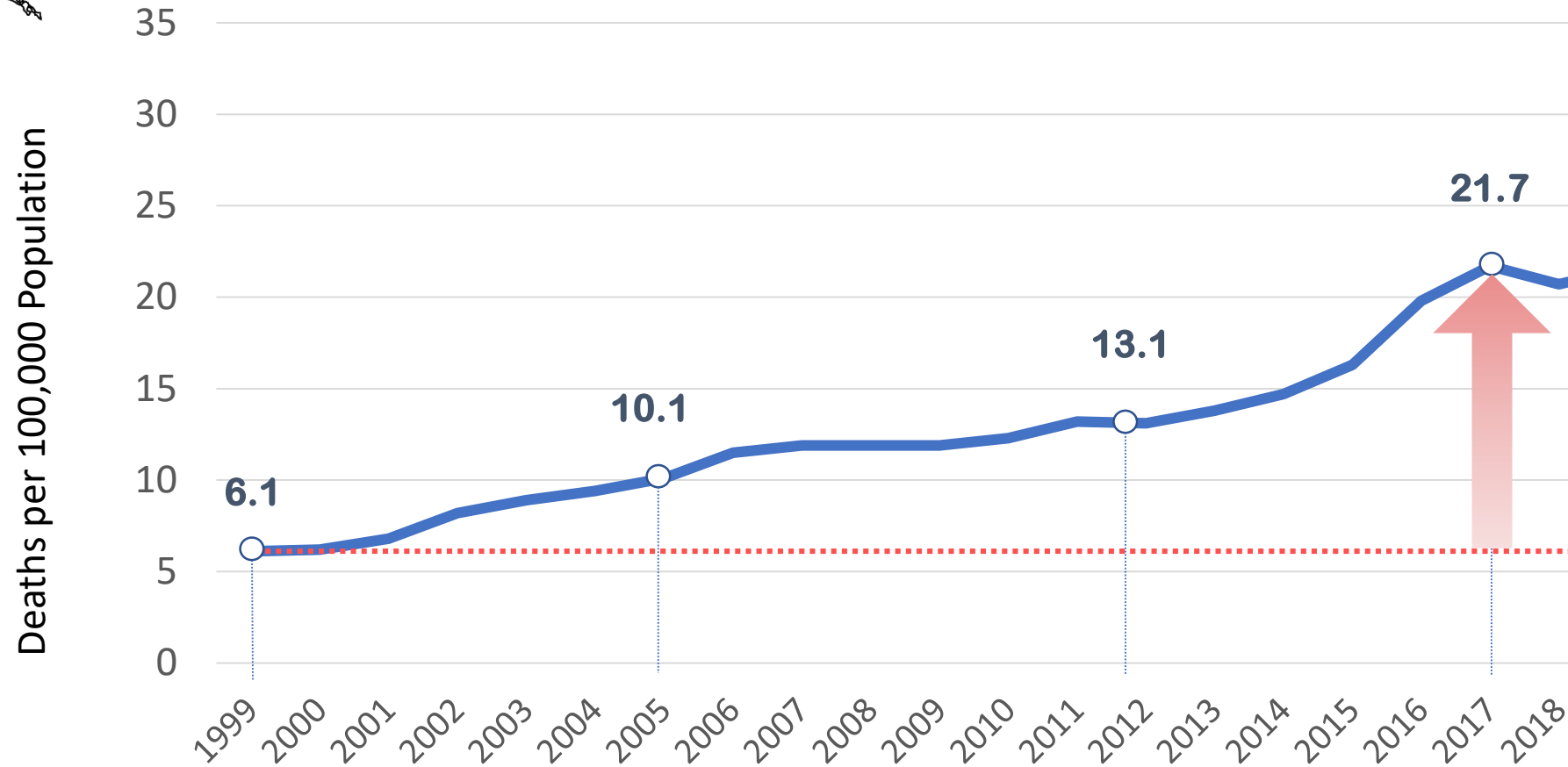
Tribal Public Health Infrastructure Grant

- Grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to Tribal Epidemiology Centers
- Specific section on **opioid & substance data** capacity building
 - Produce opioid/substance data reports for AI/AN
 - Available online: <http://www.npaihb.org/idea-nw/>
 - Assist NW tribes with opioid/substance data needs
 - Contact me! hlovejoy@NPAIHB.org
 - Gain access to additional opioid/substance state & federal data sources
 - Work with partners to address racial misclassification in data systems





National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



**3.6x
Increase**



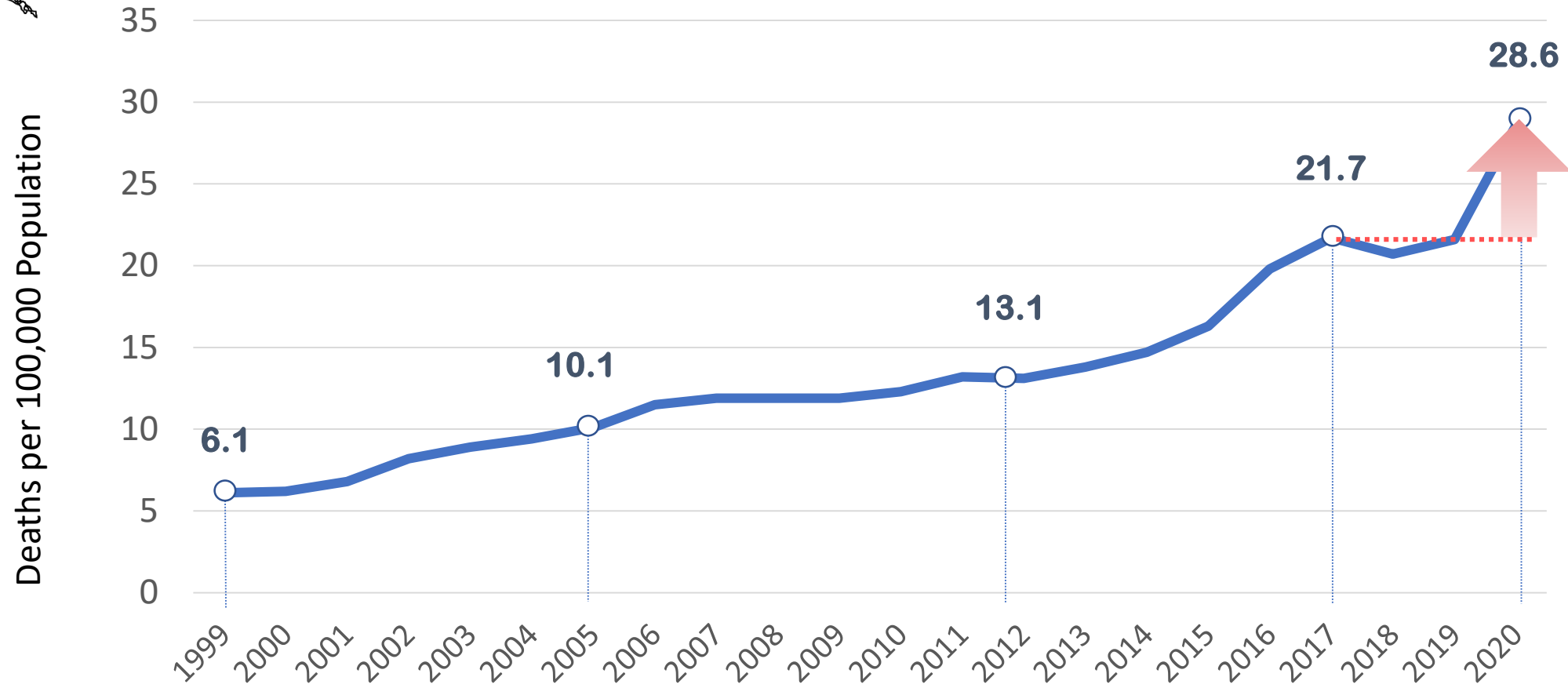
National
Public Health
Emergency
Declared
in 2017

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database





National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



1.3x
Increase



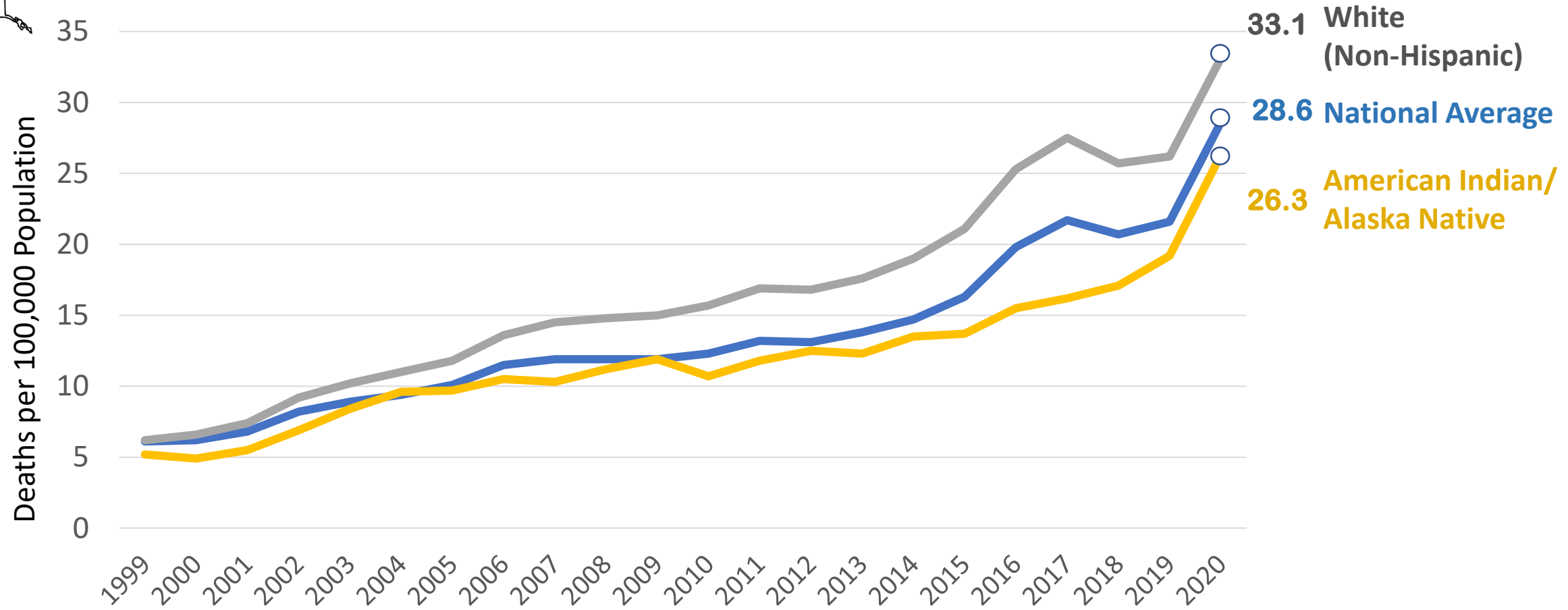
2020 - First
year of
COVID-19
Pandemic

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database





National Drug Overdose Deaths: By Race



National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database

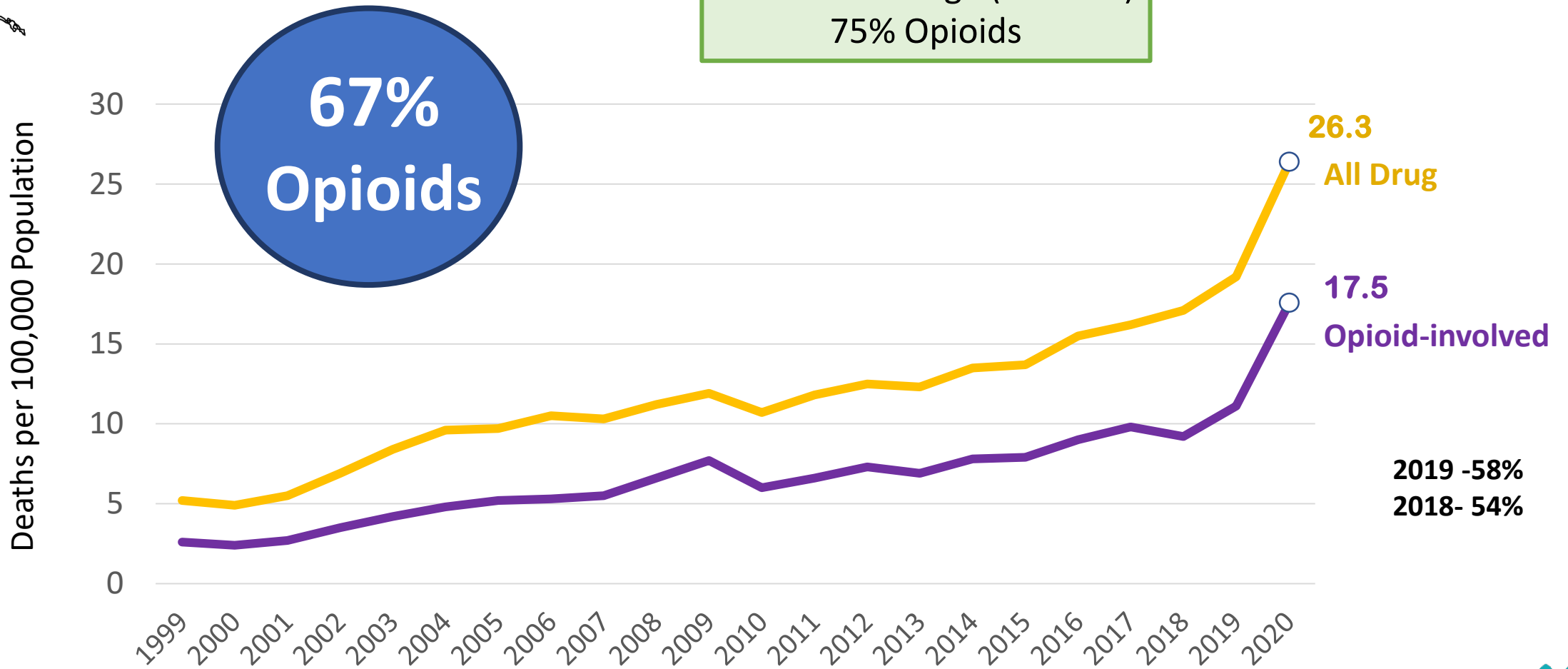
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National **AI/AN** Drug Overdose Deaths: Which Drugs?

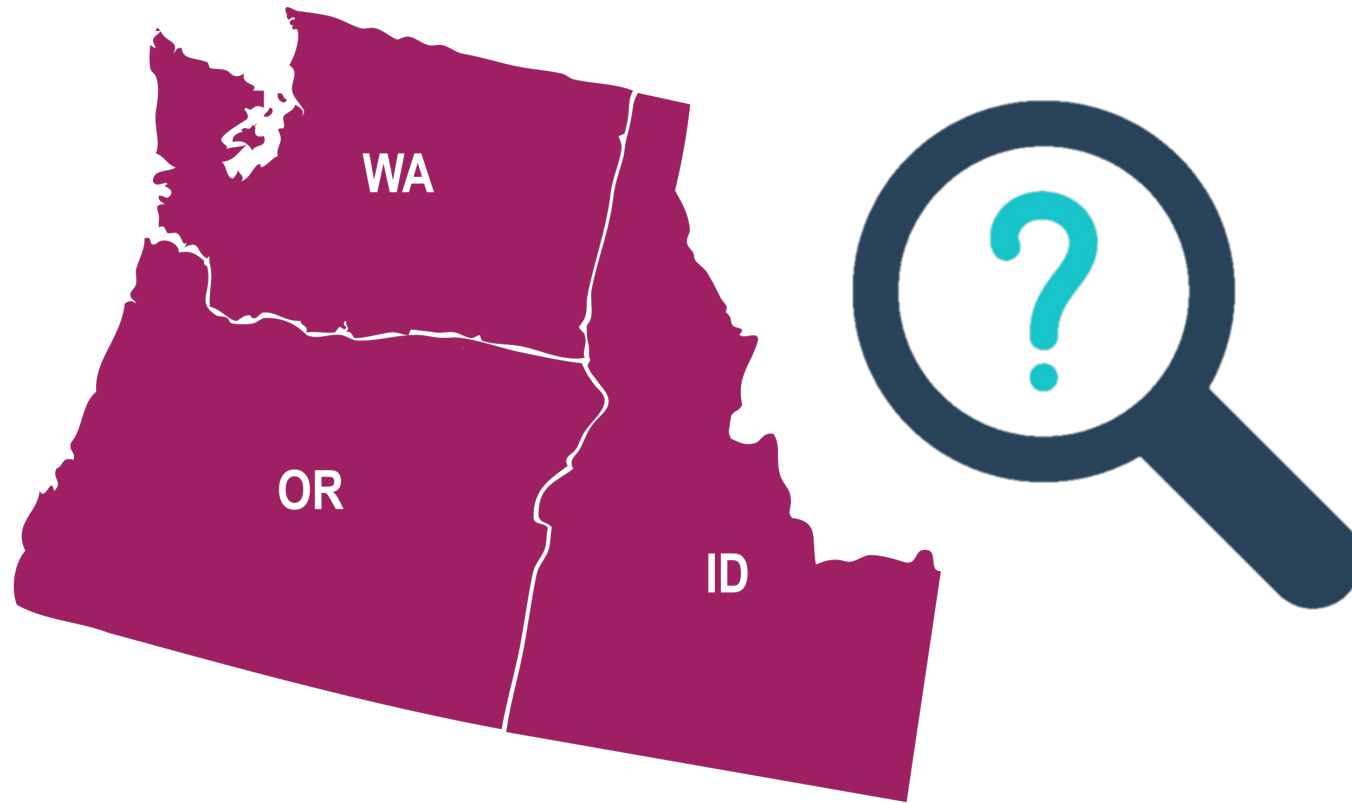
National Average (All Race)
75% Opioids

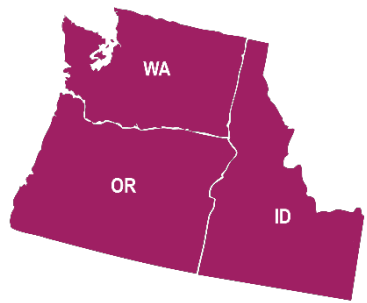


National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database

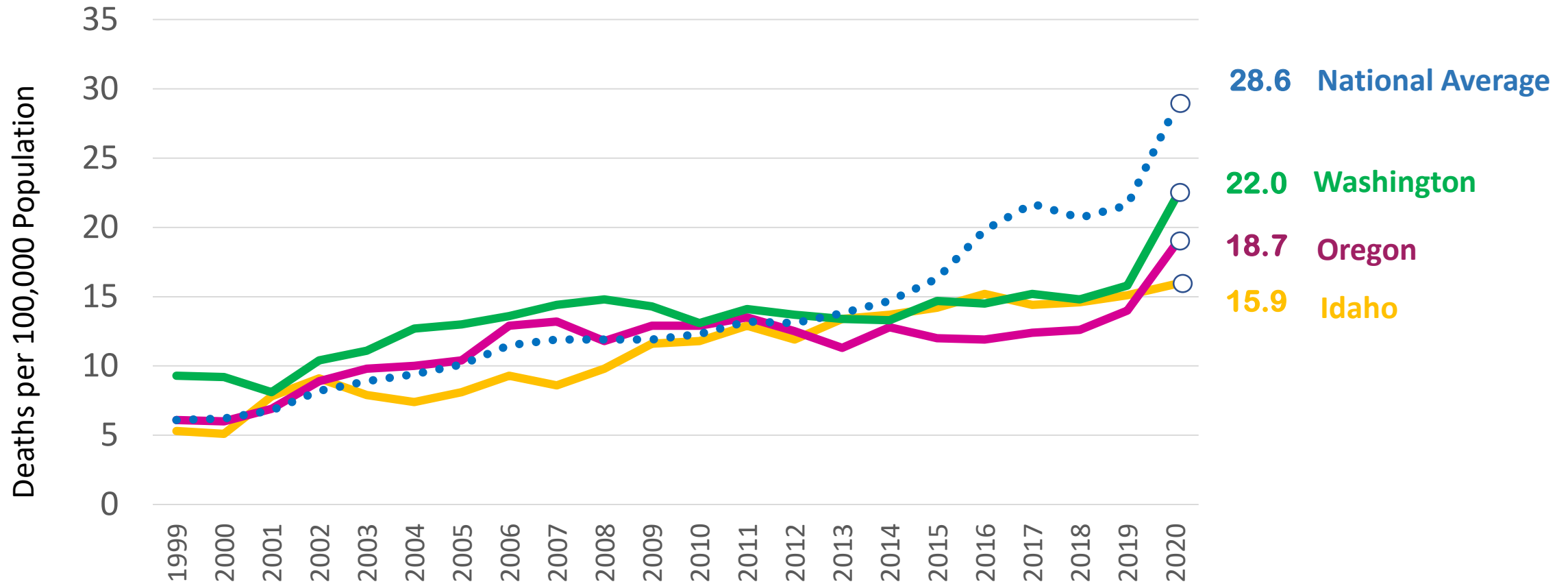


How Does the Northwest (NW) Compare?





Drug Overdose Deaths in the Northwest: State Averages (All Race)

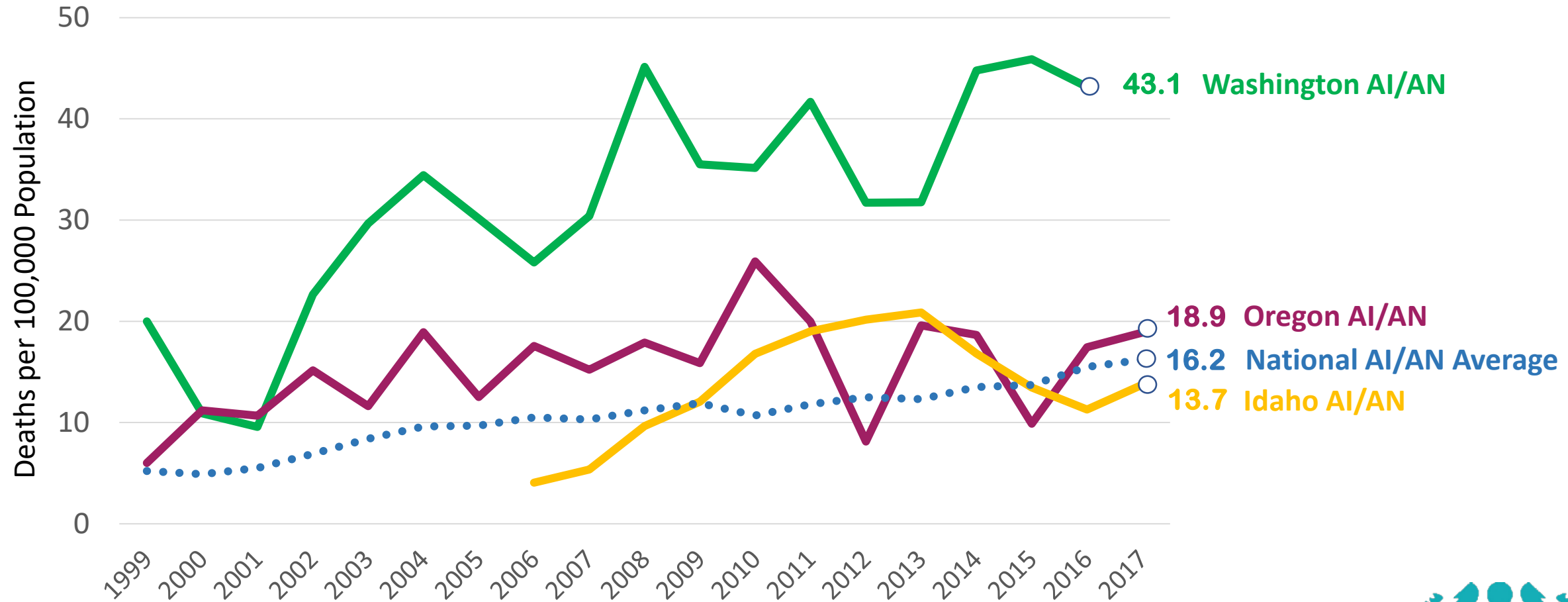


Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database;



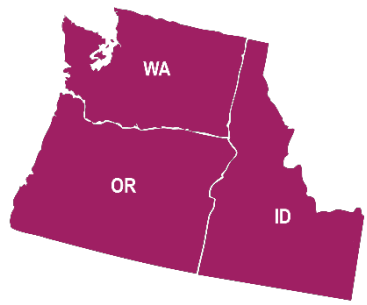


AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths in the Northwest: Trend Since 1999



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Drug Overdose Deaths in the Northwest: AI/AN vs State Averages

AI/AN rate is
2.8x higher
than the state
average



AI/AN rate is
1.6x higher
than the state
average



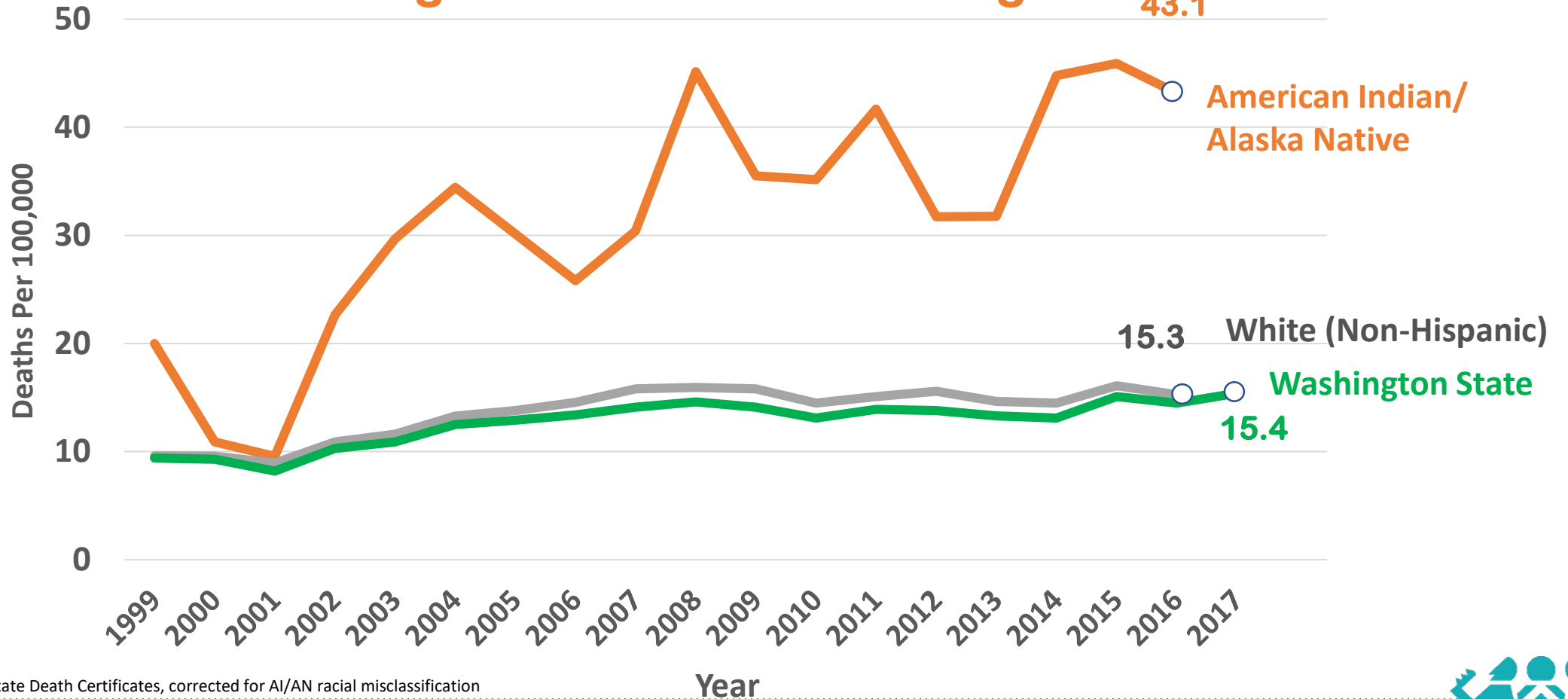
AI/AN rate is
8.0% lower
than the state
average





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: By Race

AI/AN rate in WA is 2.8x
higher than the state average

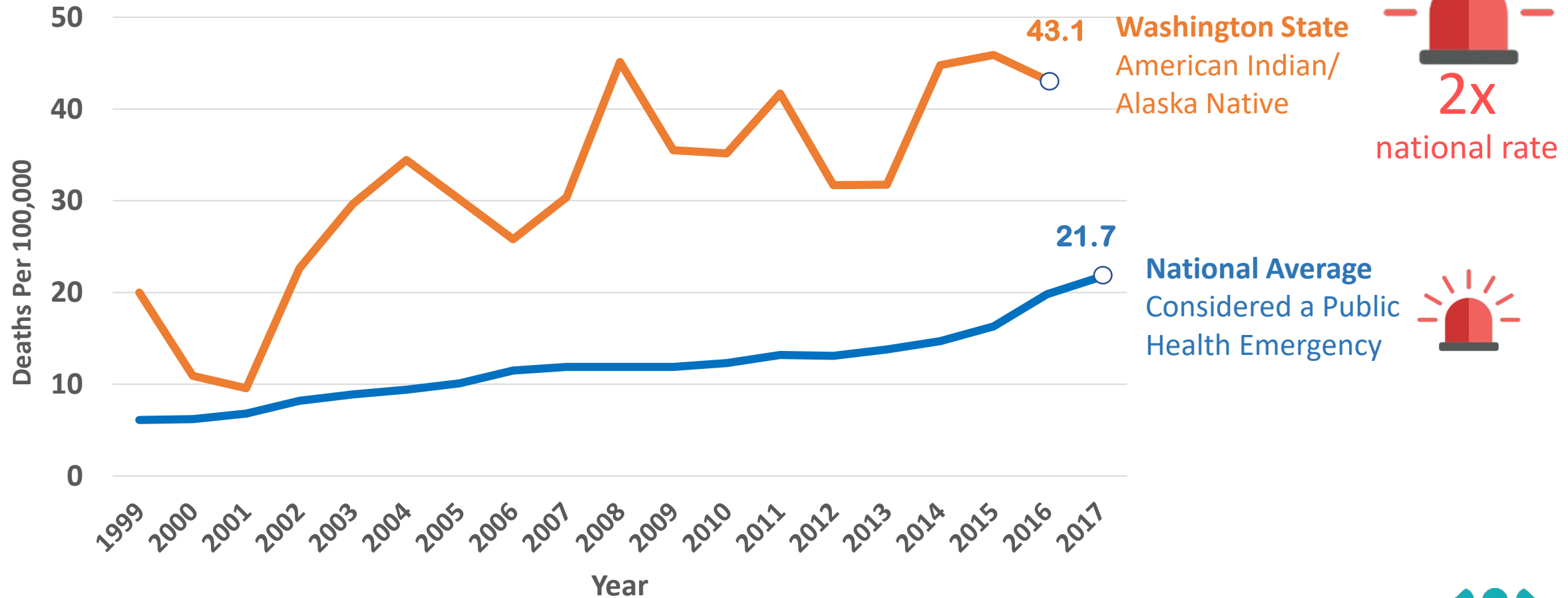


Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected for AI/AN racial misclassification





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: WA AI/AN vs National

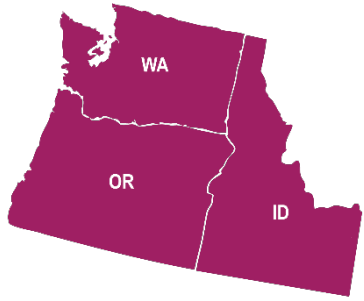


Age Adjusted Rates per Washington State Death Certificates, National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database;

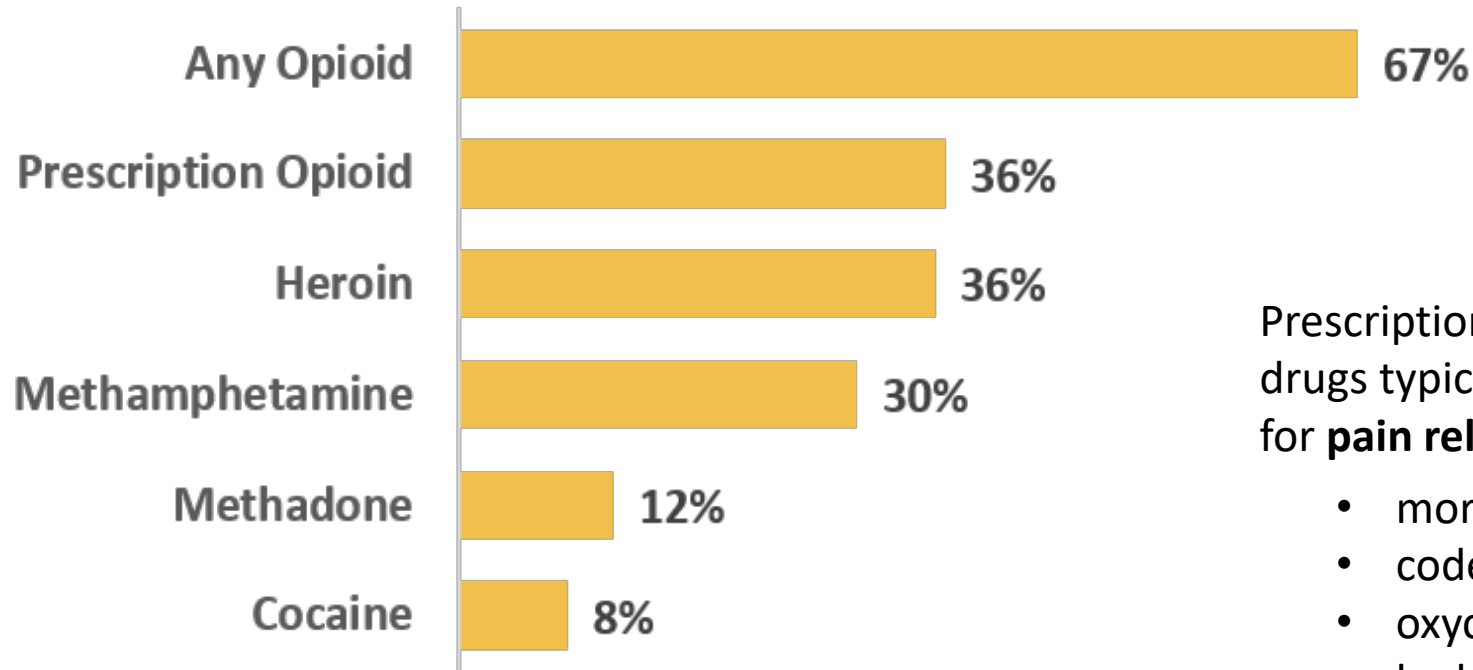


What Drugs are Involved?





NW AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: What Drugs?



Most overdose deaths involved an **OPIOID**

Heroin &

Prescription Opioids

were most common

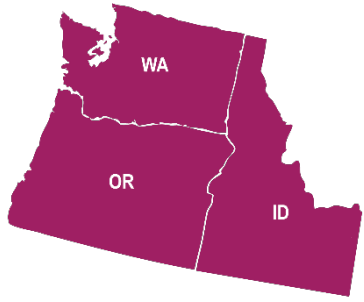
Prescription opioids are drugs typically prescribed for **pain relief**, such as:

- morphine
- codeine
- oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet)
- hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- oxymorphone (Opana)

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

Data per State Death Certificates, corrected for AI/AN racial misclassification





NW AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: Polysubstance/Multi-drug

41%

of all overdose
deaths involved
more than one
DRUG

26%

involved
more than one
OPIOID

COMMON
COMBOS

74% of deaths involving COCAINE
also involved an OPIOID

54% of deaths involving METH
also involved an OPIOID

39% of deaths involving an OPIOID
also involved ANOTHER OPIOID

18% of deaths involving HEROIN
also involved a PRESCRIPTION OPIOID

11% of deaths involving an OPIOID
also involved a BENZODIAZEPINE

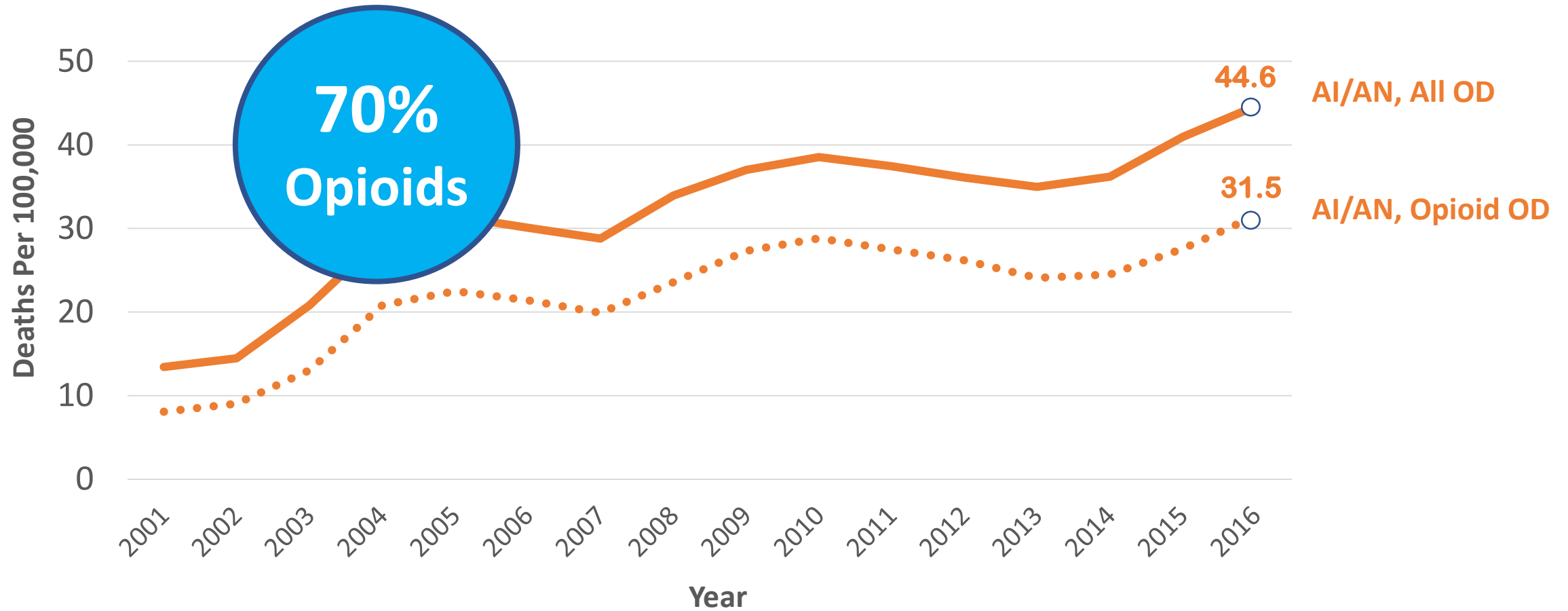
Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, etc

Date per State Death Certificates, corrected for AI/AN misclassification, 2012-2016





Washington AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: What Drugs are Involved?

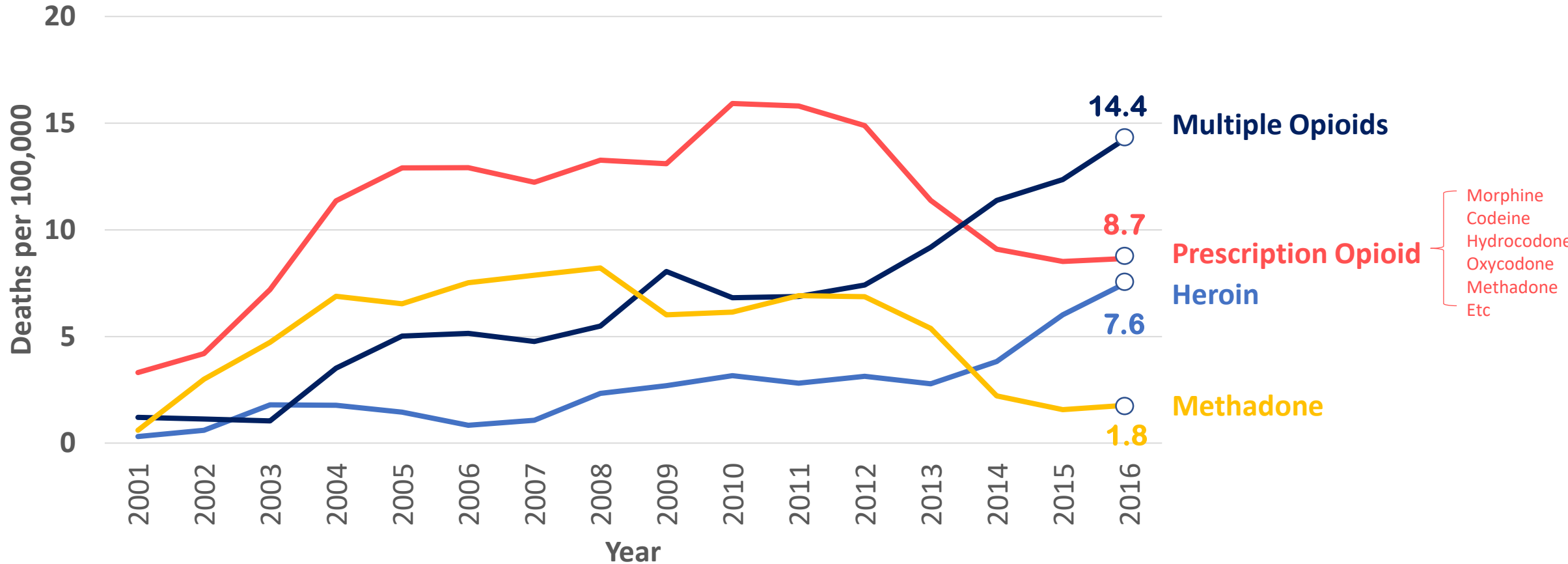


Age Adjusted Rates per Washington State Death Certificates, 3-Year Rolling Averages





Washington AI/AN Opioid Overdose Deaths: Which Opioids?

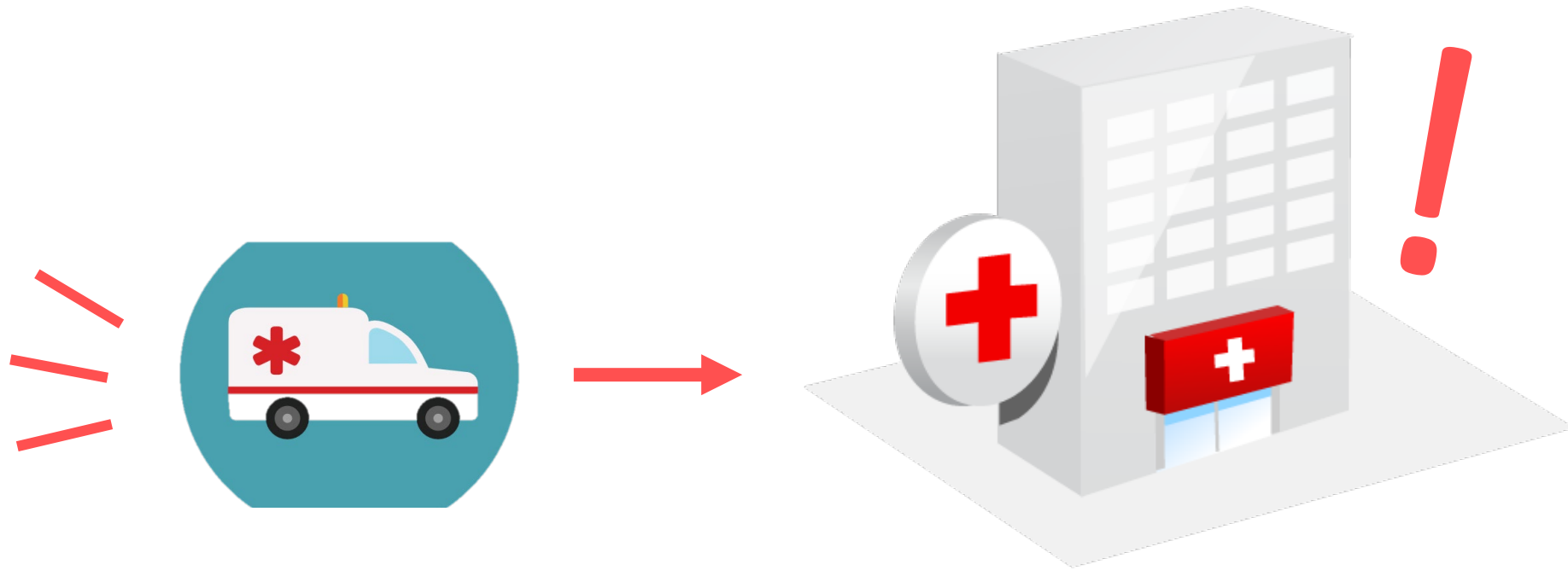


Age Adjusted Rates per Washington State Death Certificates, 3-Year Rolling Averages



Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Drug Overdose

(may or may not be a fatal overdose)





Washington State: Emergency Department Visits for Drug Overdose

Statewide in 2020:

25,477

Visits to an emergency department for drug overdose

That's about **70** visits every day

About **35%** of all overdose visits were due to **OPIOIDS**

The rates are **HIGHEST** in **URBAN** counties

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetWOrk (RHINO, accessed 3/15/2021)

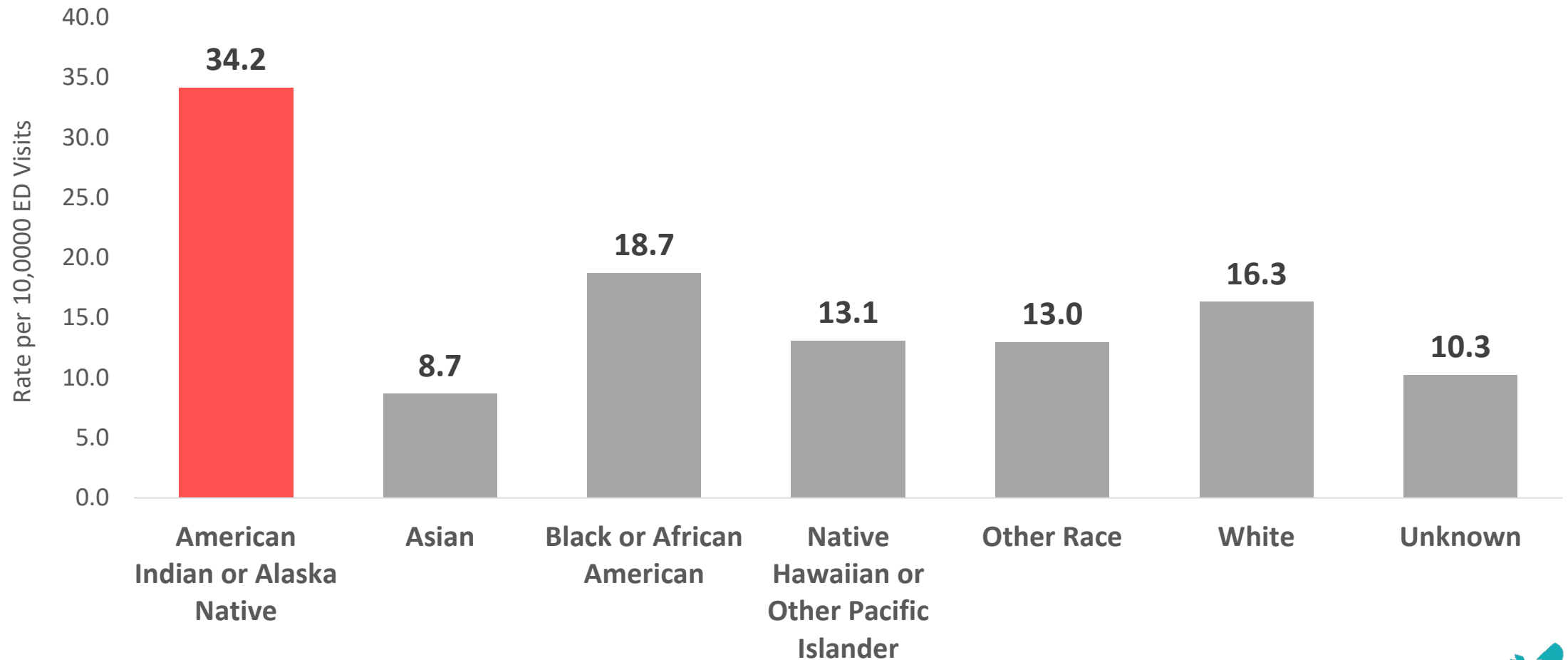
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Washington State ED Visits for Drug Overdose: by Race

Jan 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020



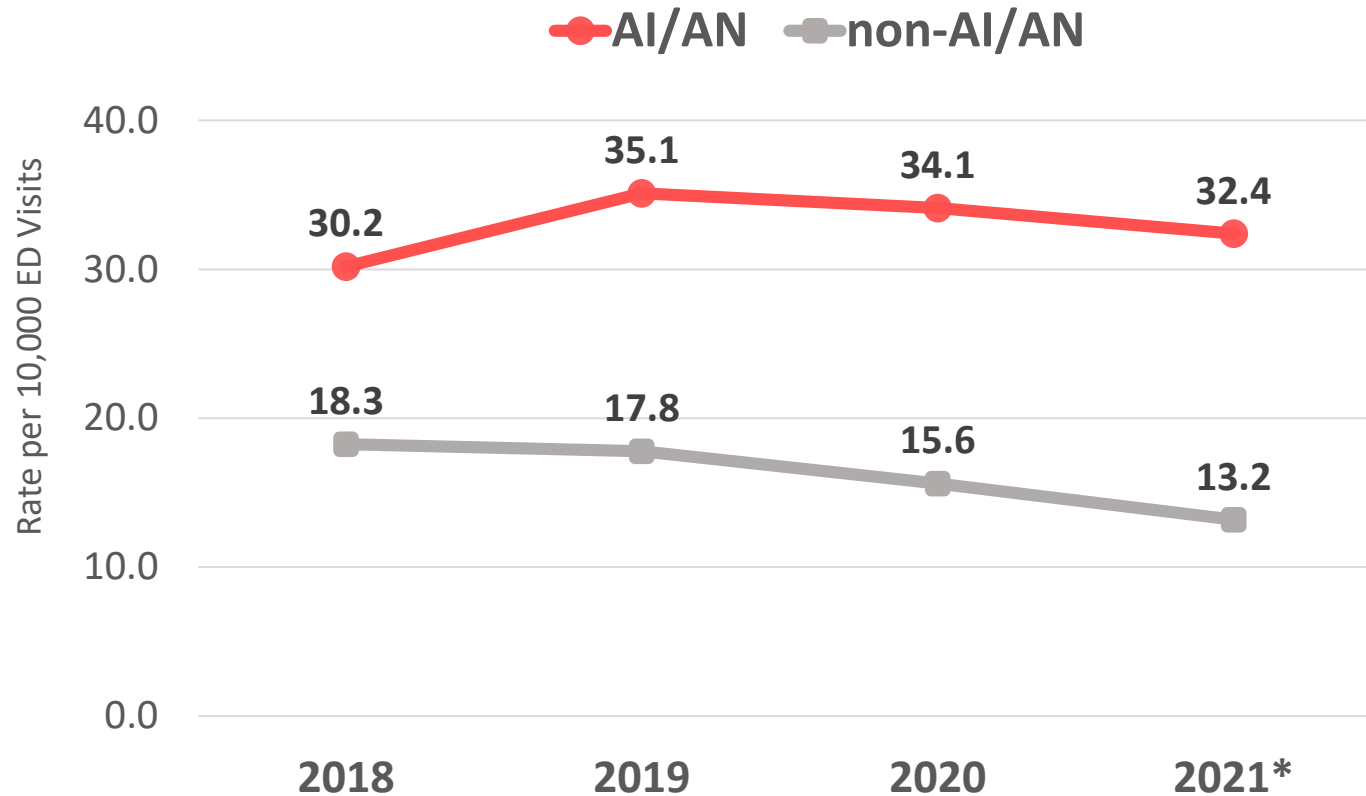
Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO, accessed 3/15/2021)

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Washington State ED Visits for Drug Overdose: by Year and Race



AI/AN have
1.7 to 2.5 times higher
rate than non-AI/AN

* Through mid-February 2021

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO, accessed 3/15/2021)





Washington State **AI/AN:** ED Visits for Drug Overdose

AI/AN statewide in 2020:

910

Visits to an emergency department for drug overdose

That's almost **3** visits every day

About **50%** of all overdose visits were due to **OPIOIDS**

The rates are **HIGHEST** in **URBAN** counties

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO, accessed 3/15/2021)

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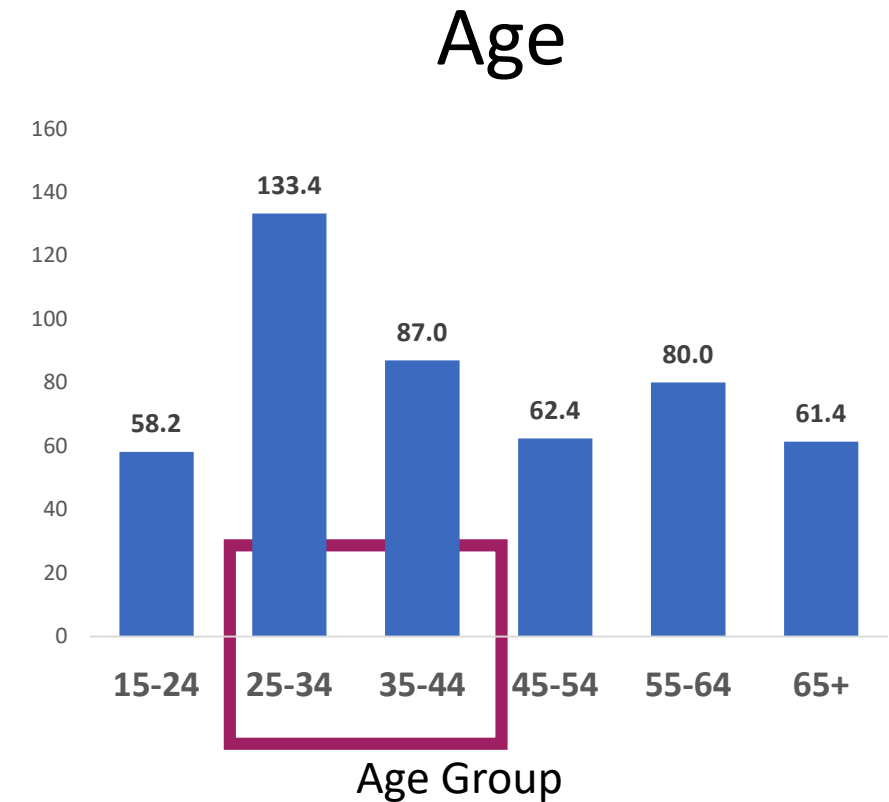
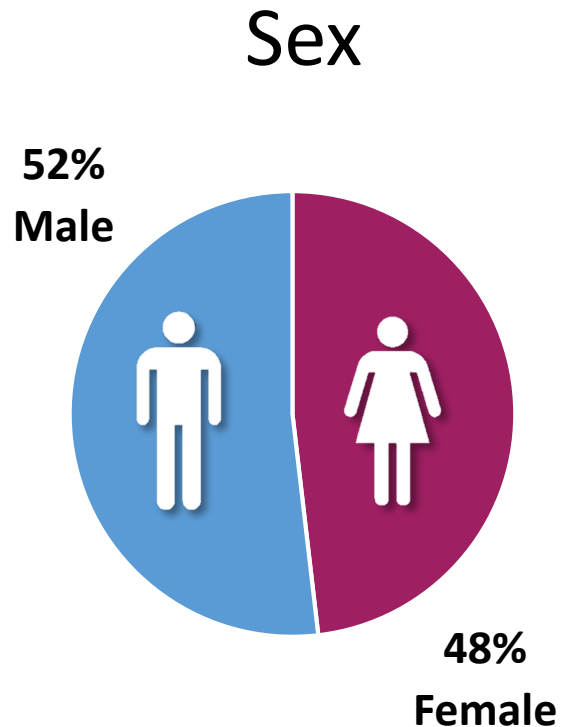




Washington AI/AN ED Visits for Drug Overdose: **OPIOID** Overdose

About **51%**
of AI/AN overdose
visits are
opioid-related

↓
15% of opioid visits
are **heroin-related**

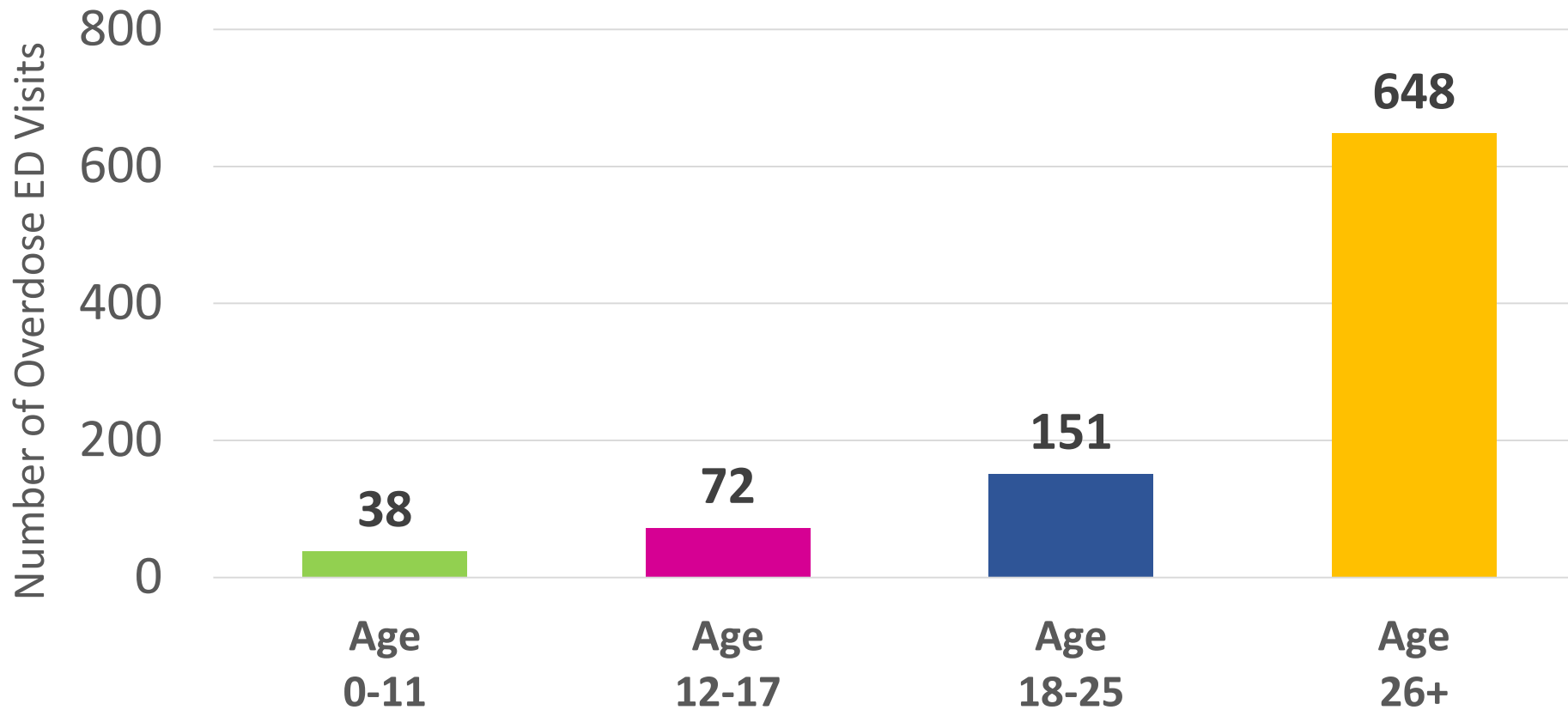


Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO, accessed 3/15/2021)





Washington State AI/AN: Number of Overdose Visits by Age, 2020



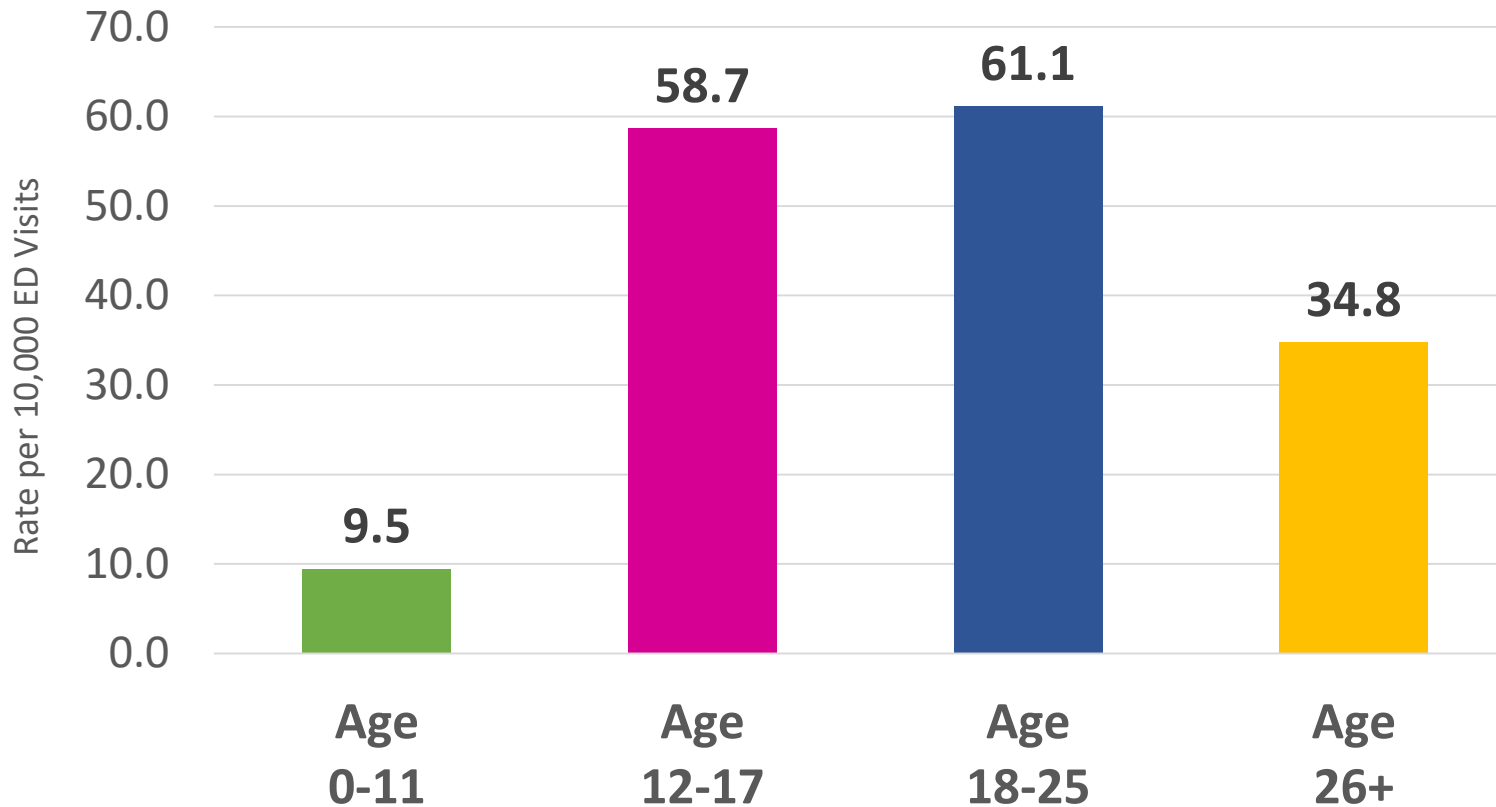
**AI/AN adults have
the highest
number of drug
overdose ED visits**

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetWOrk (RHINO, accessed 2/19/2021)





Washington State AI/AN: Rate of Overdose Visits by Age



AI/AN adolescents & young adults have the highest rates of drug overdose ED visits.

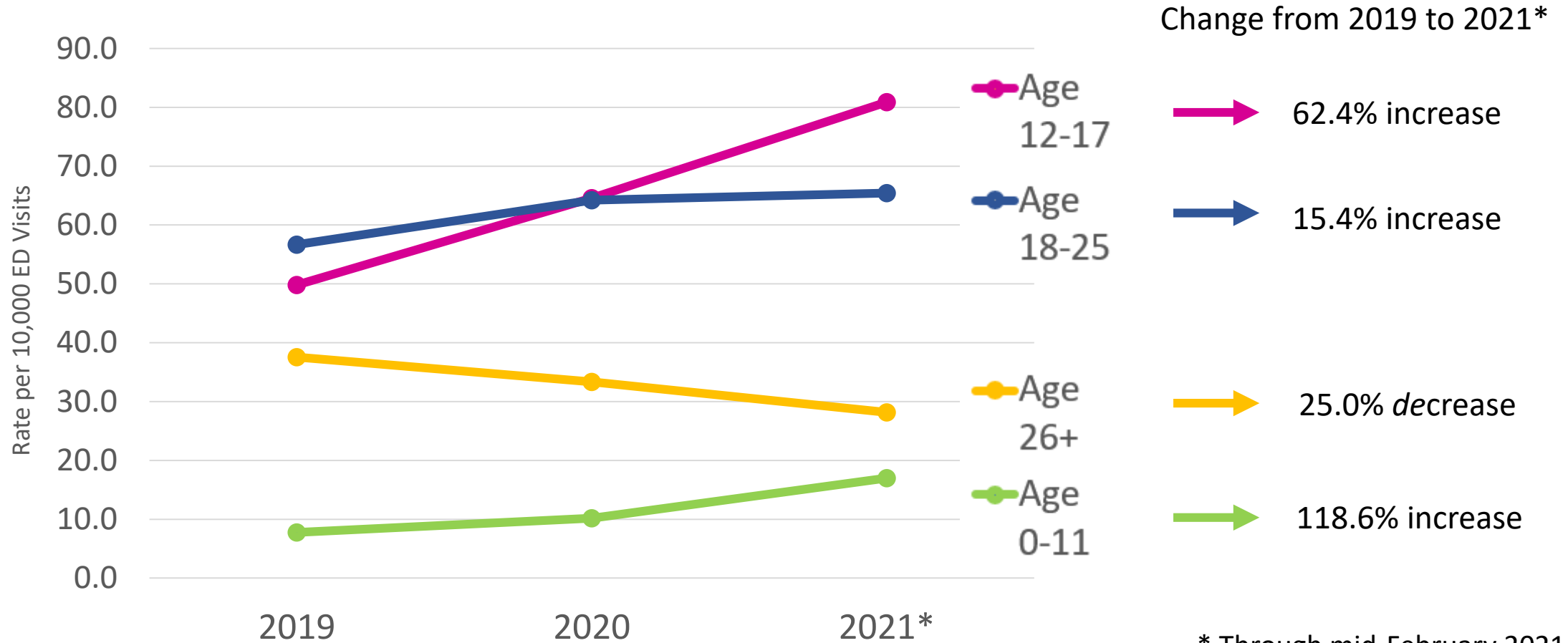
Compared to the total number of ED visits for any cause, more AI/AN adolescent & young adult ED visits were for drug overdose

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetWork (RHINO, accessed 2/19/2021, Washington State, 1/1/2019-2/18/2021)





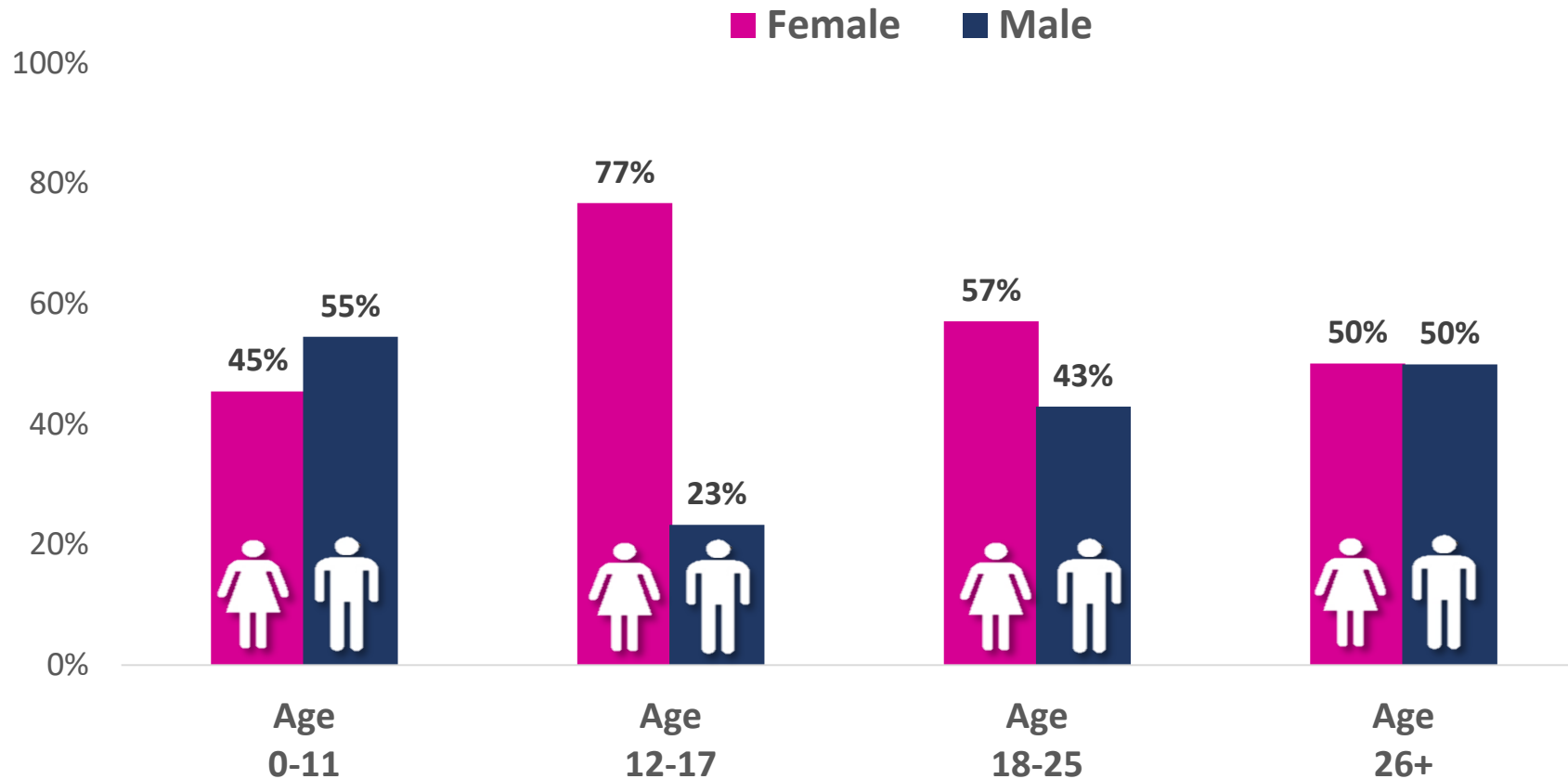
Washington State AI/AN: Rate of Overdose Visits by Age & Year





Washington State AI/AN:

Percentage of drug overdose visits by sex



Children age 0-11:
More male overdoses

Adolescents age 12-17:
Much more female overdoses

Young adults age 18-25:
More female overdoses

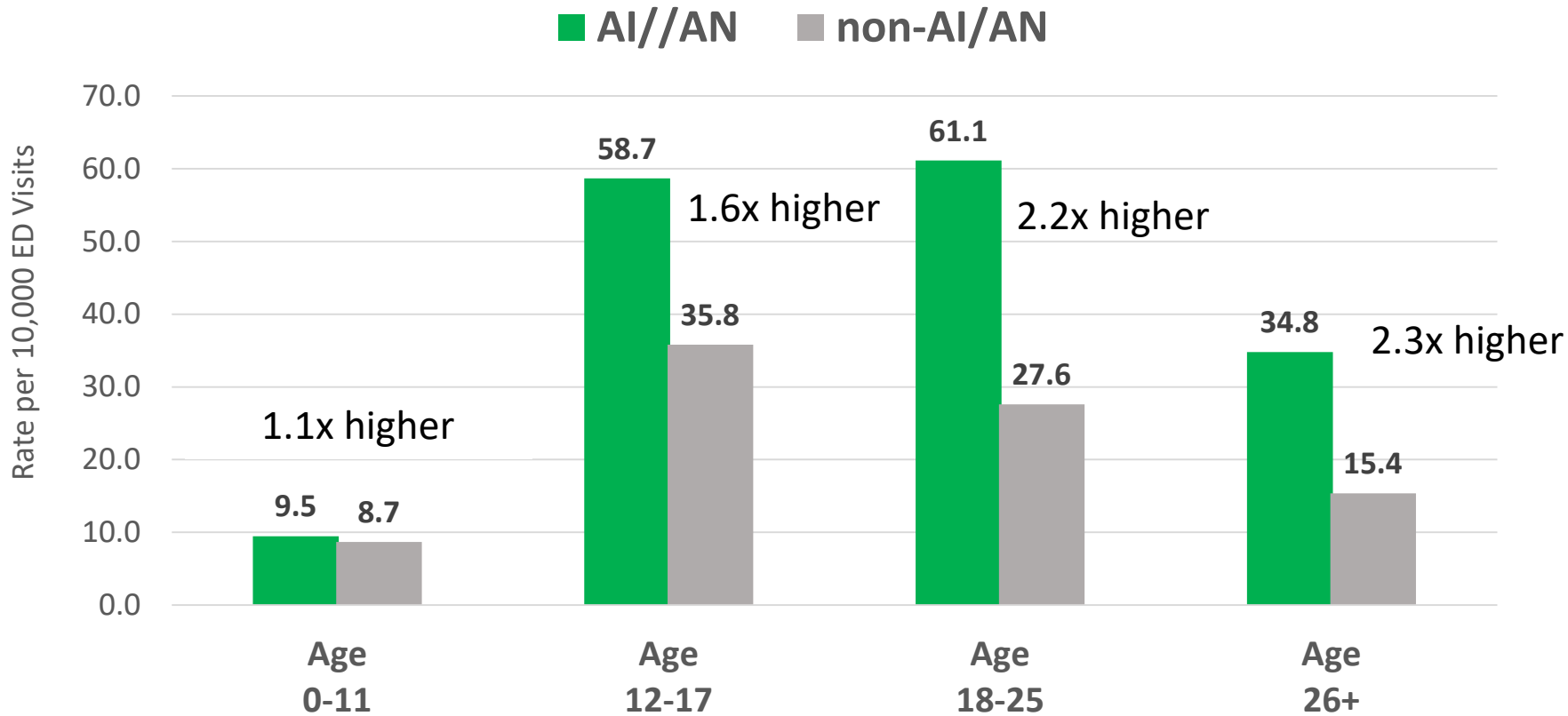
Adults age 26 and older:
Equal male and female

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetWork (RHINO, accessed 2/19/2021, Washington State, 1/1/2019-2/18/2021)





Washington State ED Visits for Drug Overdose: By Age Group & Race



The rate of drug overdose is **higher** among all AI/AN age groups than non-AI/AN

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information NetWork (RHINO), accessed 2/19/2021, Washington State, 1/1/2019-2/18/2021

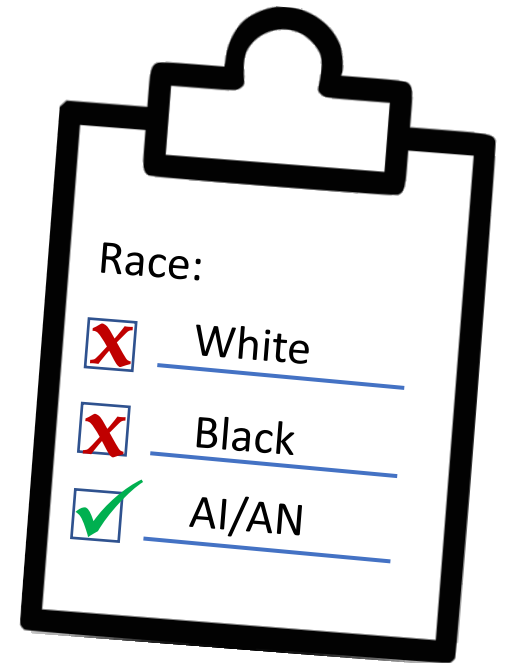


What is racial misclassification?

- Racial misclassification is an incorrect recording of a person's race in a data or surveillance system

Examples:

- A person who is American Indian is coded as “white” on their death certificate
- A person who is American Indian and Black is recorded as only “Black” on their hospital visit record
- A person who is American Indian is recorded as “Hispanic White” at their doctor’s office

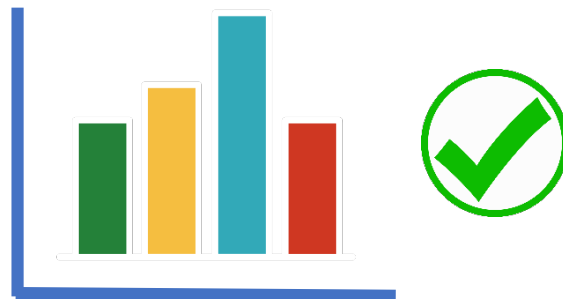
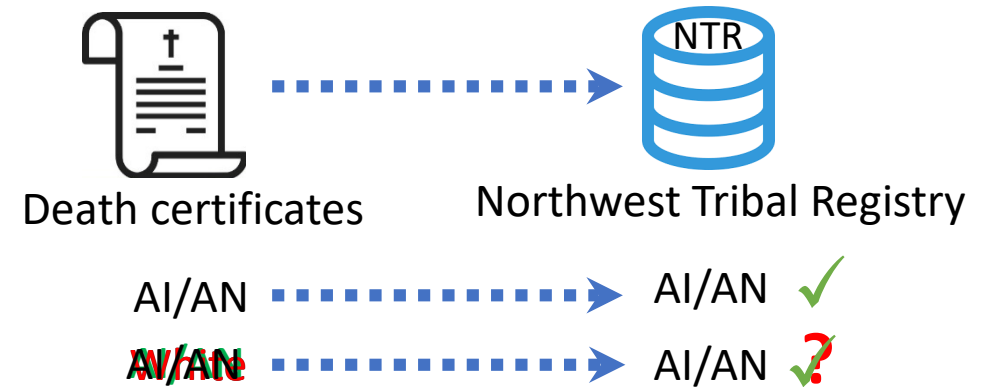


Racial Misclassification: What we at NWTEC do about it

✓ We fix race in the data

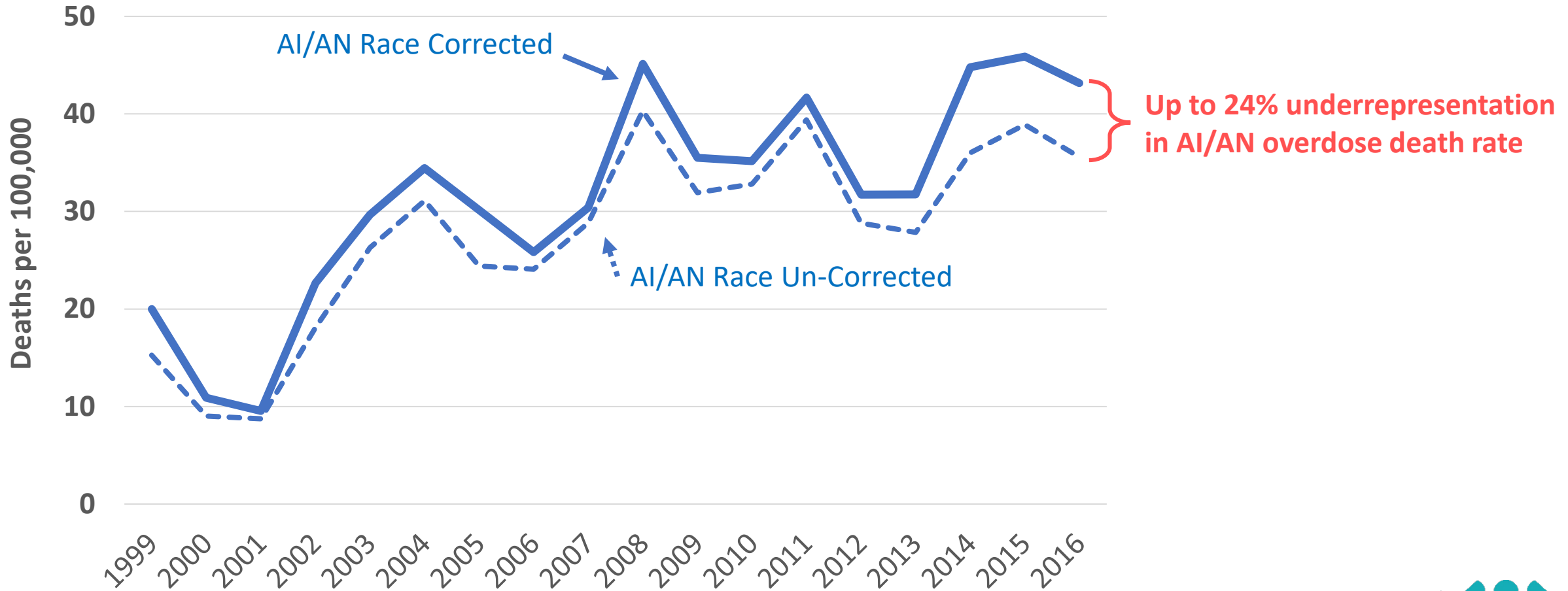
Process:

1. Obtain state data, like death certificates
2. Link data with the Northwest Tribal Registry
3. Check if AI/AN is indicated one database but not the other
4. Correct racial classification
5. Do statistics with the corrected data





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: Race Corrected vs Race Un-Corrected



Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected and uncorrected for AI/AN racial misclassification





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: by Reporting Agency

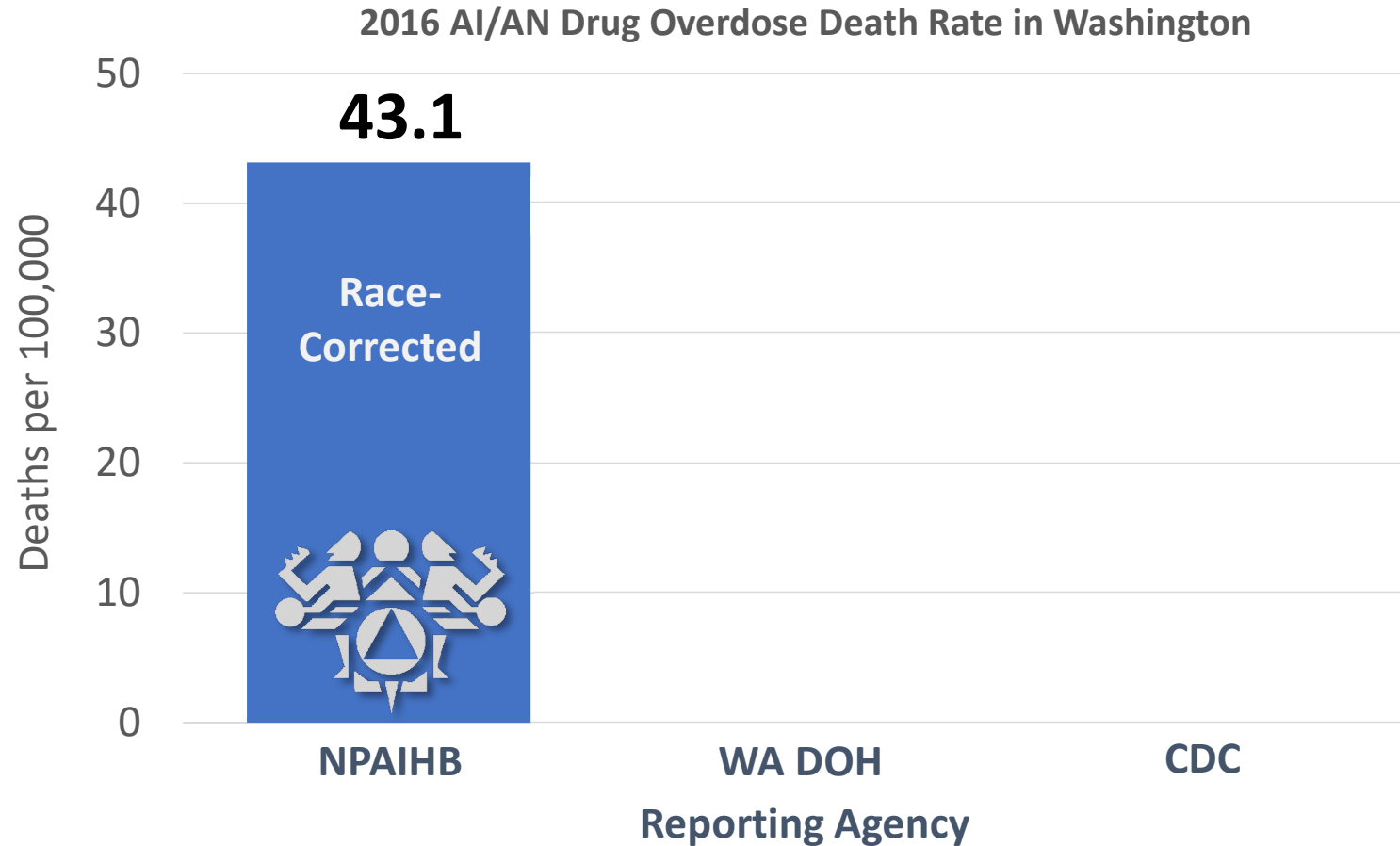
Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected for AI/AN racial misclassification

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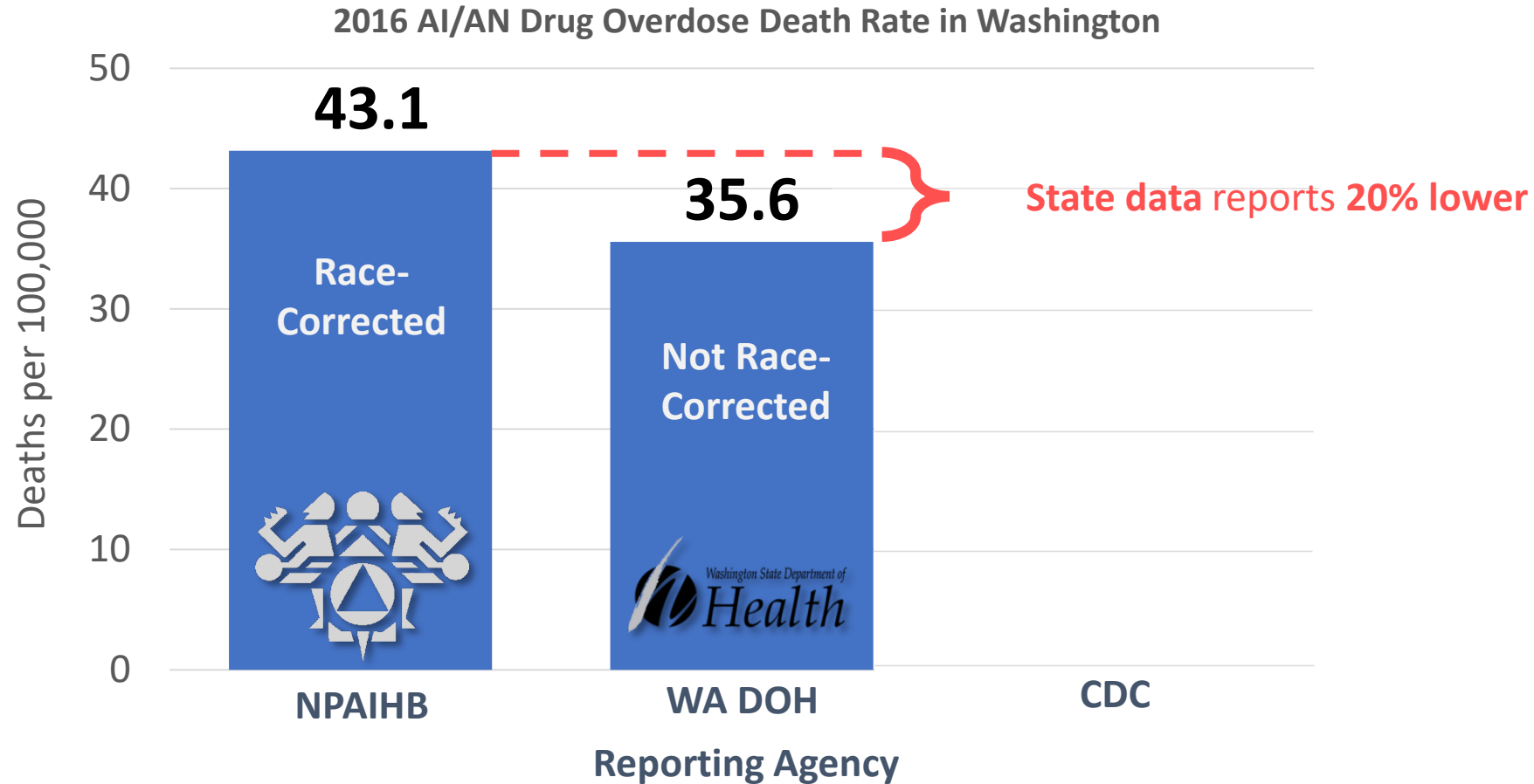


Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected for AI/AN racial misclassification





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: by Reporting Agency

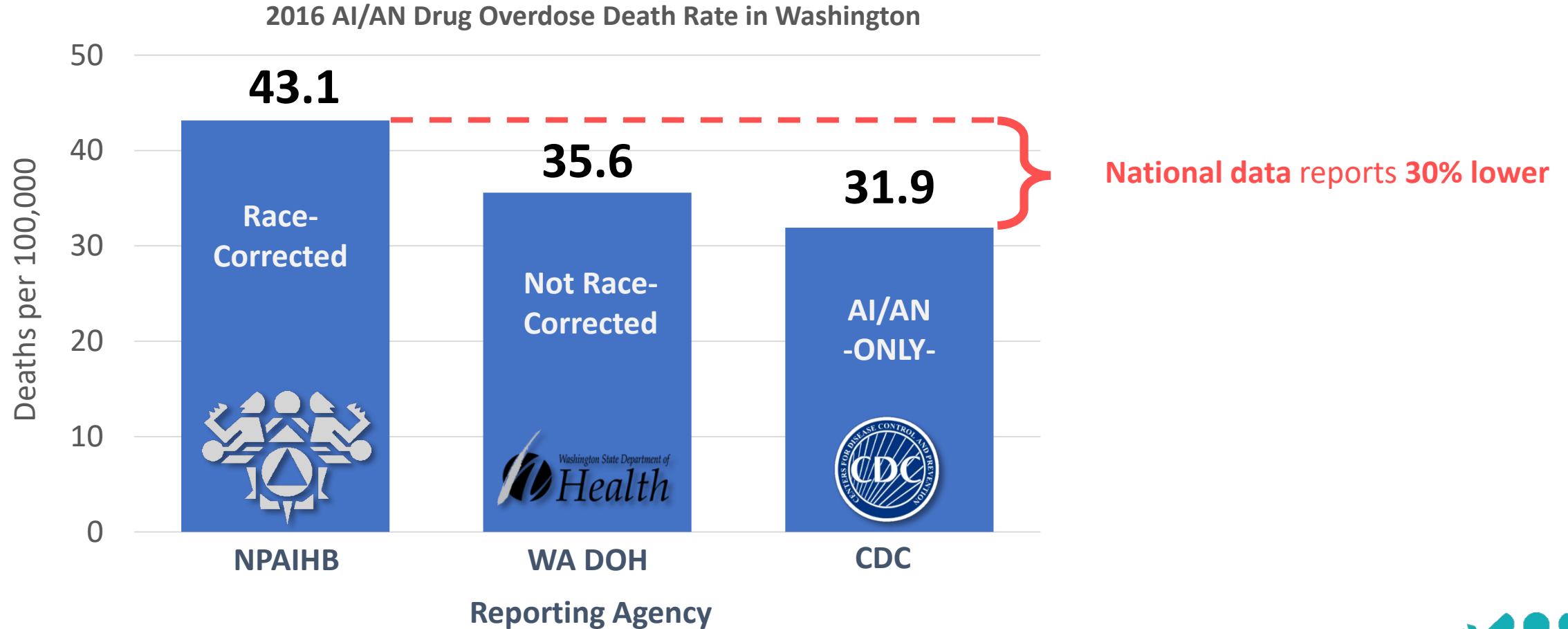


Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected and uncorrected for AI/AN racial misclassification





Washington State Drug Overdose Deaths: by Reporting Agency

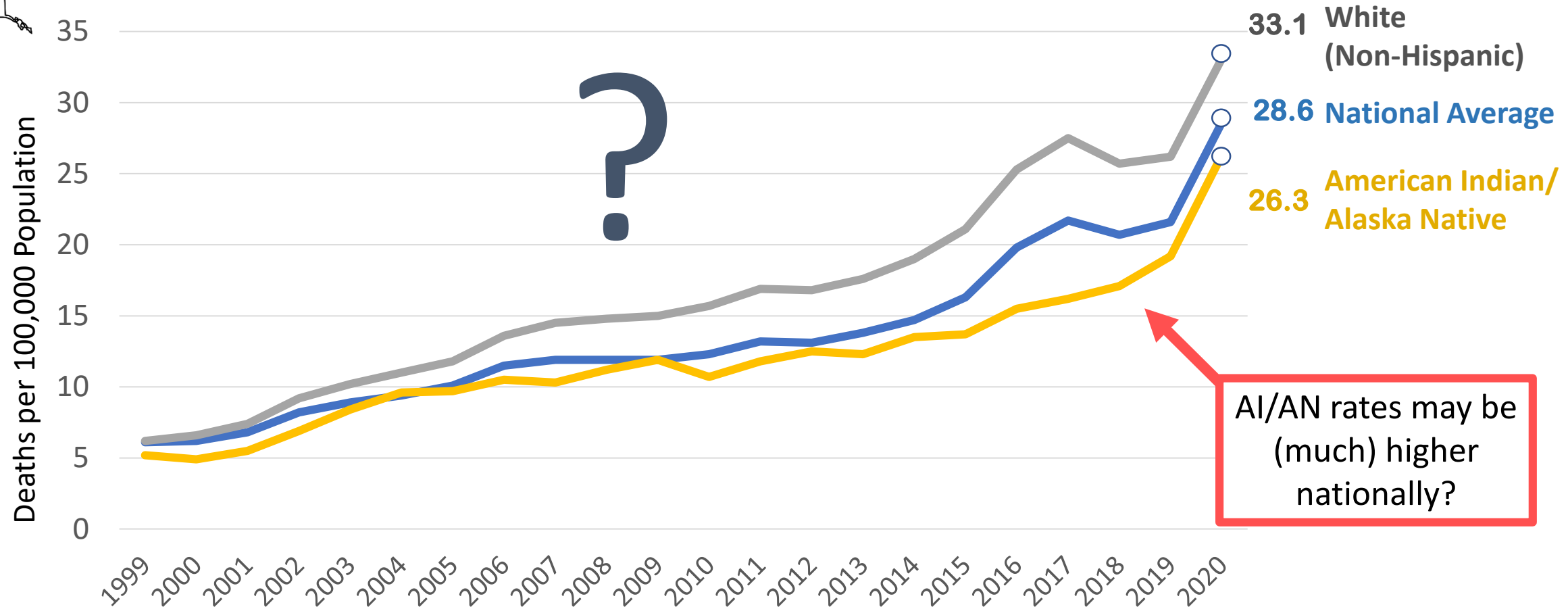


Washington Age-Adjusted Rates per State Death Certificates, corrected & uncorrected for AI/AN racial misclassification; National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database





National Drug Overdose Deaths: By Race



National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database



Thank You!

Questions?

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